

Outspoken 'Kalamitous' / Devotee of Shiva

'Others Have Come Here,' Says Father of India's Bomb

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

NEW DELHI — Among the Indian scientists who successfully detonated five nuclear tests in the northwestern desert last week, none seemed more visibly delighted by the acclaim waiting in New Delhi than A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. An impish, shaggy-haired bachelor, Mr. Kalam is widely regarded as the central figure in India's drive to join the small club of nuclear-armed nations.

Mr. Kalam, 66, has never hidden the passion for a powerful India that has driven him since he was growing up in a poor family on the coast of Tamil Nadu. Among colleagues a new word, "kalamitous," was coined to capture the outspokenness with which Mr. Kalam greeted each new delay in the tests, or in getting the money to develop the missiles to deliver nuclear bombs.

When he returned to New Delhi over the weekend from the test site in Rajasthan, Mr. Kalam found himself a national hero, applauded and besieged for autographs, though the tests drew widespread condemnation in the rest of the world.

"We must think and act like a nation of a billion people, and not like that of a million people," he said. "Dream, dream, dream! Conduct these dreams into thought, and then transform them into action."

Only a few years ago, Mr. Kalam became so frustrated with the reluctance of successive governments to approve nuclear tests that he came close to quitting as the government's top scientific adviser to become vice chancellor of the University of Madras. On Sunday, when he appeared with other members of India's nuclear team at a news conference, nobody was surprised when Mr. Kalam stole the show with his readiness to flirt with political issues.

IN THE MIDDLE of a baffling exposition on "subcritical fissionable materials" and "electronic arming and fusing subsystems," Mr. Kalam turned to a favorite political topic — how a nuclear-armed India will be free of the fear of foreign invasions, which have constantly remolded the ancient Hindu civilization as armies of Macedonians, Persians, Afghans and Britons swept in.

"For 2,500 years India has never invaded anybody," he said. "But others have come here, so many others have come."

For many Indians, the references to invasions, many by Muslims, underscored an aspect about Mr. Kalam that is almost as engaging as his unguarded remarks, a biographical fact that is rarely mentioned: Like the captain of the na-



John MacDougall / Agence France Presse

In one of his poems, 'Tumuli,' A.P.J. Abdul Kalam asks, 'Did I explore space to enhance science, or did I provide weapons of destruction?'

tional cricket team, like some of India's top generals and newspaper editors and diplomats, like many of its top filmmakers and artists, Mr. Kalam is one of the 120 million Muslims in a nation of 700 million Hindus.

As India celebrated its arrival as a nuclear-arms power, some said Mr. Kalam's role meant the world now has an "Islamic bomb," but one that belongs to India — an India ruled by Hindu nationalists. The term "Islamic bomb" describes the yearning among some of the world's 1 billion Muslims for the development of nuclear weapons by a Muslim country, most likely Pakistan, India's archrival, which is considering whether to respond to the Indian tests with one of its own.

But though Mr. Kalam is an observant Muslim, his attitudes and tastes speak of his immersion in the broader culture of India.

He is an avid reader of ancient Hindu scrip-

tures. He has published poems in Tamil, his first language. And one of his pastimes in his modest walk-up apartment in New Delhi is plucking a veena, a stringed instrument with a curved musical box at each end that is associated with Shiva, a Hindu god who is regarded as both creator and destroyer.

According to one Indian biography, Mr. Kalam knows by heart sections of the best-known Hindu sacred book, the Bhagavad-Gita. If so, this would give him another link to Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist who led the team that tested the first American atomic bomb, in the New Mexico desert on July 16, 1945. According to some accounts, after the pre-dawn flash signaled the birth of the atomic age, Mr. Oppenheimer quoted a line attributed to Shiva in the Bhagavad-Gita: "Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds."

A line in one of Mr. Kalam's poems suggests

that he, like Mr. Oppenheimer, has agonized over the moral aspect of his work. Before becoming the chief scientific adviser and leader of the nuclear-weapons team, Mr. Kalam was best known as a missile engineer, working on the program that launched India's first space satellites, and later as the head of the team that developed and test-fired missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads.

In an English translation, the poem, "Tumuli," asks: "Did I explore space to enhance science, or did I provide weapons of destruction?"

AVUL PAKIR Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born on Oct. 15, 1931, on Dhanushkodi, an island off Tamil Nadu, where his father rented a boat to fishermen who worked the narrow strait between India and what was then Ceylon, now Sri Lanka.

Some accounts have said that Mr. Kalam's affection for Hinduism developed when a primary-school teacher separated him as a Muslim and placed him at the back of a classroom, prompting tears from a Brahmin boy who was his best friend. Later, the Brahmin boy's father, spotting scientific ability in the young Kalam, helped pay for him to go to a Roman Catholic high school and to college.

Mr. Kalam has said his ambition was fired by an article about the Supermarine Spitfire, Britain's front-line fighter during World War II, that he read as a small boy delivering a local Tamil newspaper.

Later, he studied aeronautical engineering at the Madras Institute of Technology, but did not attempt a doctorate. (He has since garnered many honorary degrees.)

His only extended period abroad came when he was part of a five-man Indian team invited to spend four months visiting space research centers in the United States in the early 1960s, during the first year of the American manned-space program.

Several of the Indian scientists who led the nuclear test team, including Rajagopal Chidambaram, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, did postgraduate studies in the United States, as have many of the scientists who have worked on Pakistan's nuclear program.

But Mr. Kalam has insisted that India has achieved its successes in missile development and bomb-building substantially unaided, apart from some early assistance in rocketry from the United States and the Soviet Union.

As for himself, he says, "I am completely indigenous!"

After Pardon, U.K. Nurses Are Freed by Saudi Arabia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — The two British nurses jailed for murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia were freed late Wednesday, the Foreign Office announced.

The two nurses, Lucille McLachlan and Deborah Parry, who have been in jail since December 1996, should arrive in Britain on Thursday, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

The Saudi ambassador to London announced late Tuesday that the pair had been pardoned by King Fahd.

Miss Parry, 39, and Miss McLachlan, 32, were tried for the murder of an Australian colleague, Yvonne Gilford, who was stabbed 13 times, battered and suffocated at a military hospital in Dhahran on Dec. 11, 1996.

They were arrested the same month and have been held in prison in Dammam, adjacent to Dhahran in eastern Saudi Arabia. Saudi authorities said that the women had confessed to the murder and that they had had a lesbian relationship with Miss Gilford. The confessions were later retracted, and the two pleaded guilty.

Miss McLachlan, from Dundee, Scotland, was found guilty of complicity in the murder last year and sentenced to eight years in prison and 500 lashes.

The sentence against Miss Parry, of Alton, England, was never formally announced by the Islamic court that tried the women, but she risked being beaten as the main accused.

Miss Parry was saved when Miss Gilford's family in Australia waived its right to demand the death penalty in exchange for *diya*, or blood money, of \$1.2 million, as provided under Islamic law. The money was raised mostly by British firms with major trading interests in Saudi Arabia.

But the money has yet to be released. Frank Gilford, the brother of the murdered woman, who has said that more than half of it will go to an Claudea patient called Wednesday for the money to be paid.

The nurses' Saudi lawyer described the sentence as a "shining example of Islamic justice."

Miss McLachlan's lawyer, Peter Watson, was unwilling to say much before the nurses were back home.

But he told BBC radio Wednesday, "The nurses continue to protest their innocence and certainly as far as the British lawyers are concerned we are aware of no evidence to implicate them in the murder of Yvonne Gilford."

The surprise news that the nurses were being freed came in a statement Tuesday night from the Saudi ambassador to Britain, Ghazi Alghosaibi.

He said King Fahd had issued an order commuting the sentences of the two nurses to the time they had already spent in jail in response to a petition from their families.

It followed the personal intervention of Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, who raised the plight of the nurses in talks with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia last month.

(AP, Reuters)

Iran Shrugs Over U.S. Shift on Penalties

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

TEHRAN — Government officials have welcomed the Clinton administration's decision to waive penalties on a multinational energy consortium that plans to develop a vast Iranian gas field, calling it a possible step toward better relations between the two countries. But they did not exactly gush with gratitude.

"This has a positive aspect, and I think Iranians will positively receive it," said a senior Iranian diplomat. "But it doesn't mean too much concerning the relationship between the two countries."

Like other officials here, the diplomat expressed the

view that, given the depth of European opposition to U.S. Iran policy, Washington had little choice but to find a loophole in the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, which penalizes foreign companies that invest more than \$20 million a year in Iran's energy industry.

Iran's tepid reaction to the waiver, announced Monday by President Bill Clinton and European Union officials, also reflected the prevailing belief among supporters of President Mohammad Khatami that Washington has failed to capitalize on Mr. Khatami's proposal, made in a CNN interview last January, for informal dialogue between the two nations.

Many Iranian officials and academics contend that while Mr. Khatami has lived up to his promise to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries, the United States has not responded in kind. Continued hostility on

the part of Washington, they say, has strengthened the position of religious hard-liners in the Iranian Parliament and elsewhere who oppose Mr. Khatami's overtures to the West as a betrayal of the country's 1979 Islamic revolution.

The administration is "missing an opportunity" in the sense that the "CNN interview was a move on the part of Khatami that had to be responded to more concretely," said Hadi Semati, a political scientist at Tehran University.

"The U.S. really didn't have to do a lot. It could just lower the rhetoric. There is a balance right now in Iranian domestic politics, and the balance has to be carefully observed."

The State Department has accused Iran of sponsoring terrorism, seeking to acquire nuclear weapons and trying to wreck the Middle East peace process. But Mr. Khatami's upset election victory last May and his subsequent overture to the United States were welcomed in Washington on Tuesday.

Contrary to what many Iranians believe, the U.S. administration has taken modest steps to respond to Mr. Khatami's proposal, such as relaxing travel restrictions on

TRAVEL UPDATE

Bali Surviving Unrest

JAKARTA (AP) — As foreigners flee most cities in Indonesia, vacationers are still heading to the beaches of Bali, a resort island seen as a safe haven removed from the riots elsewhere.

"A lot of guests still feel Bali is a world of its own," said Rintje Verschuren, general manager of the Holiday Inn Bali Hai, adding that occupancy at the 200-room resort was at 90 percent Wednesday.

Bali has its own international airport, so tourists can fly there without stopping in Jakarta.

The riots in Jakarta and other parts of Indonesia have dealt a devastating blow

to tourism, one of the principle sources of foreign exchange for Indonesia.

Strike Slows Athens

ATHENS (AP) — A four-hour work stoppage by civil servants and transit employees shot down public offices and snarled traffic in Athens on Wednesday.

Olympic Airways, meanwhile, was hit with a three-hour strike.

Pollution caused by wildfires prevented four international flights from landing at Guatemala's main airport. The area is suffering one of the worst fire seasons in memory because of a drought blamed on El Niño.

(Reuters)

WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Asia

Today

Tomorrow

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

ASIA/PACIFIC

Indonesian Opposition Seeks Leader

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

JAKARTA — Cast an eye across the sprawling Parliament grounds here, with its tens of thousands of students cheering and pumping their fists, and one would think that Indonesia is being swept up in a "people power" revolution similar to that of the Philippines in 1986.

But as the student occupation of Parliament enters its fourth day, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the protest movement lacks a leader like Corazon Aquino, the widow of a slain opposition leader who inspired people and vanquished Ferdinand Marcos by the sheer force of her moral authority.

"This is one of the biggest problems with Suharto's 32 years in power," said Umar Juoro, a political analyst at the Center for Information and Development Studies in Jakarta. "He hasn't given anybody inside or outside the government the opportunity to develop into a credible leader."

To the extent that Indonesia has a main opposition leader, it is Amien Rais, a 54-year-old political scientist who runs Indonesia's second-largest Muslim organization. Mr. Rais has won the trust of students as an authentic voice of change. But he does not yet have the political clout to take on President Suharto, a wily autocrat who has spent three decades muzzling world opinion.

The limits of Mr. Rais's power were laid bare Wednesday when he was forced to cancel a huge rally planned for Jakarta's main square. For days, Mr. Rais had promised to put one million people on the streets, drawing on the 28 million members of his Muslim organization, Muhammadiyah. But in the predawn hours of Wednesday, after the

army mustered its own menacing presence, Mr. Rais decided that the potential for violence was too great to go forward.

Indonesia's other major opposition figure, Megawati Sukarnoputri, has more in common with Mrs. Aquino than Mr. Rais. Like Mrs. Aquino, who was married to the beloved Filipino politician Benigno Aquino, Mrs. Megawati has an emotive tie to her country's political history. She is the daughter of Indonesia's first president, Sukarno, whom Mr. Suharto ousted in 1966.

Mrs. Megawati, 50, is also a living symbol of Mr. Suharto's repressive tactics. In June 1996, she was ousted as the head of the Indonesian Democratic Party in a coup engineered by pro-Suharto forces. But she has preached a policy of restraint in opposing the Suharto government. Mrs. Megawati has scarcely been visible during the tumultuous events of the last two weeks and even her admirers say she may be consigning herself to political irrelevance in the new Indonesia.

"She has to hurry up and catch her moment in history, and history doesn't wait around," said Wimar Witcelar, a television commentator here. "She's a very good person, but then we need a leader today."

Opposition leaders in Indonesia operate in a near-total vacuum, since Mr. Suharto dominates the country's political institutions through his ruling Golkar party, and the military through his hand-picked generals. Mr. Rais has been able to carve out a role through his religious organization, which provides education and health-care services to Indonesia's huge Muslim population. But as he has grown more political, Mr. Rais has run afoul of the Suharto regime.

Among students at the Parliament

Wednesday, there was understanding but palpable disappointment at Mr. Rais's decision to call off the rally. The students are genuinely fond of Mr. Rais, a diminutive figure whom people describe as charming and quick-witted. When he came here Wednesday to speak to the students, they cheered him enthusiastically and gathered expectantly to listen.

But Mr. Rais did not galvanize the masses with a 10-minute address that rehashed old themes and contained few rhetorical flourishes. At one point he compared Mr. Suharto and his family to the pugilists of the World Wrestling Federation, saying, "When they are on top, they don't like to come down."

"I expected Amien Rais to pull his act together and make a strong statement," said Arin Barus, a 21-year-old social sciences student at the University of Indonesia. "But he didn't inspire the students."

Nevertheless, the student said Mr. Rais had their support.

"He's got the trust of students," Mr. Witcelar said. "He's the one man we can trust, and trust is what this is all about."

Mr. Rais is not without his detractors. In the past, he has complained about the over-representation of Roman Catholics in the government. And he favors affirmative action programs targeted toward indigenous Muslims, a position that unnerves ethnic Chinese people, who have already been victims of racial violence.

Mr. Rais has played down these beliefs in recent years. On Wednesday, in his speech at the Parliament, he made a point of reaching out to people of all faiths. Mr. Juoro, who is a political advisor to Mr. Rais, said it was part of his transformation from a scholar and a religious leader into a politician.



Indonesian students protesting Wednesday at the Parliament building.

U.S. Force to Indonesia

Marines in Region Could Evacuate Americans

Reuters

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Marine Corps amphibious force led by a helicopter carrier is being diverted toward Indonesia in case a military evacuation of Americans is needed from Jakarta in coming days, the commander of the Marine Corps said Wednesday.

General Charles Krulak said the navy helicopter carrier Belleau Wood and two support ships carrying about 2,000 Marines would take up positions north of Jakarta over the next four or five days in case civil unrest in Indonesia's capital again turned violent.

The U.S. State Department has ordered all nonessential U.S. Embassy workers and their dependents to leave Jakarta because of recent violent protest against the continuing rule of President Suharto.

Defense Department officials have emphasized that U.S. forces would be used only if the State Department decided that it could not safely evacuate Americans using commercial or chartered jets.

The Belleau Wood was scheduled to take part in a military exercise with Thai forces in the Gulf of Thailand beginning this week. But General Krulak said Wednesday that the three-ship Amphibious Ready Group was instead being moved southward in the South China Sea in case it was needed.

"For the next four or five days," General Krulak said, "they will sail to the vicinity of Indonesia and will basically bore holes in the ocean to see what happens in Indonesia."

He added: "They are prepared and they do have contingency plans to execute a NEO" or noncombatant evacuation operation. "Hopefully it would be one that was not opposed."

On Tuesday, Britain urged all of its citizens still in Indonesia to leave the country immediately and several embassies in Jakarta have chartered emergency flights to evacuate non-essential staff and thousands of foreigners to nearby foreign cities, including Singapore and Bangkok.

Anti-Suharto Groups Get Key U.S. Aid

By Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — While trying to shore up President Suharto, the Clinton administration has also been giving crucial support to some of the most important Indonesian opposition groups, hoping to promote a transition to a democratic society.

The money has come from the U.S. Agency for International Development, better known for building dams and roads than creating bridges to political opponents of authoritarian leaders.

The sum, \$26 million since 1995, is relatively small among U.S. foreign-aid programs. But it has been vital to the survival of groups that support human rights and free speech in Indonesia.

The money from AID is the largest source of support for such groups as the Indonesia Legal Aid Society, headed by Adnan Buyung Nasution, a leading figure in the democracy movement.

The group is giving free legal counsel to political figures and students arrested by the government in the current crisis, the type of role that the society has played for years.

The U.S. agency has helped Indonesian rights advocates "monitor human-rights issues, mobilize public opinion and monitor extralegal activities," cor-

ruption and abuse of the poor" by the Suharto government, said Sharon Cromer, deputy director of the AID mission in Indonesia.

The support has ensured the survival of groups that are emerging as leaders of the opposition in Indonesia, "despite their being constrained by the authoritarian system," Ms. Cromer said.

AID has supported 30 nongovernmental organizations in Indonesia, agency representatives said. The organizations include an environmental group that is fighting a large American mining company on behalf of people who live near the company's projects; a coalition of journalists whose work was banned by the Indonesian government; a women's rights group and a consumers' rights foundation.

AID is the largest financial supporter and the most active donor in this controversial sector," the agency told Congress in a recent budget request.

Peter Galbraith, a former senior counsel to AID, said, "The idea was to send a message that the United States was concerned about something other than the banks and the economic issues, that we thought about the ordinary people of Indonesia, and to prepare for a possible transition from Suharto to what we hope will be a more democratic and stable system."

William Little, a professor of Indonesia studies at Ohio University and a former AID consultant, said the program had been a success.

"A democracy requires a civil society," Mr. Little said. "Indonesia has been like the Soviet Union. The government controls most civil society organizations. It creates them or determines who their leaders are. The point of the program was to try to develop these groups. The groups are now leading figures in the opposition."

In the last five years, programs like the one in Indonesia have been created by the director of the agency, Brian Atwood, in more than 25 missions around the world in nations including Guatemala, Kenya, South Africa and the Philippines.

But the Indonesian program has come under fire from some supporters of the present Jakarta government, including Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold of New Orleans, the largest single foreign investor in Indonesia. It argues that the United States should not support Walhi, an Indonesian environmental and human-rights group that has attacked the company's projects as detrimental to Indonesians near Freeport mines.

Despite pressure from the company, the U.S. ambassador in Indonesia, Stapleton Roy, stood by the program.

BRIEFLY

Ruling Party Clears Way for Estrada

MANILA — The governing party's candidate promised Wednesday not to block Vice President Joseph Estrada's proclamation as winner of the Philippine presidential election last week, virtually conceding defeat.

But the House speaker, Jose de Venecia, who is trailing far behind Mr. Estrada in the unofficial count, said leaders of his Lakas-NUCD party had advised him not to make a "premature concession" because it might cause local ballot watchers to quit and affect the outcome of vote counting for local races.

"I will not use my position to block front-runner Joseph Estrada's proclamation by Congress and will help him unite the nation," Mr. de Venecia said. "I love my country more than my bid for the presidency."

Mr. de Venecia's statement diminished fears that protests by the governing party or counting fraud could create instability and a rocky transition to a new government.

With about 82 percent of the ballots counted, Mr. Estrada led with about 37 percent. (AP)

Severe Storm Kills 29 in Bangladesh

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh — A severe storm has left at least 29 people dead and more than 100 injured after battering Bangladesh's southeast coast, volunteers and other monitors said Wednesday.

The storm, with winds of up to 145 kilometers (90 miles) an hour, swept areas around Cox's Bazar and Chittagong at midnight Tuesday.

It brought heavy rain and threatened the region with a strong tidal surge, officials said. Thousands of houses were damaged. Chittagong officials said. Most casualties were caused by flying debris.

Kabir Ahmed, president of the Cox's Bazar Fishing Boat Owners Association, expressed concern for some 4,000 fishermen still at sea. (Reuters)

Seoul Leader Plans U.S. Visit in June

SEOUL — President Kim Dae Jung will visit the United States from June 6 to 14, during which he will meet with President Bill Clinton, the Presidential Secretariat said Wednesday.

At the meeting set for some time from June 8 to 11, Mr. Kim is expected to request active U.S. assistance to help his country overcome economic difficulties, the secretariat said.

Mr. Kim, who took office in February, also plans to deliver a speech at a joint session of Congress session and meet International Monetary Fund and World Bank leaders. (Reuters)

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But the House speaker, Mr. Estrada, who is trailing his political party's leaders in his tally of votes, has advised him not to accept it might cause local voters to quit and affect the outcome.

"I will not use my power to overturn the proclamation by Congress," Mr. de Venecia said. "The country more than my bid for presidency."

Mr. de Venecia's statement, which fears that power-giving party or country could create instability and a transition to a new government.

With about 82 percent of voters counted, Mr. Estrada

is expected to win with about 37 percent.

Severe Storm Kills 29 in Bangladesh

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Pakistan May Press For Security Pledge

Delegation Going to U.S. for Talks

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — India's announcement this month that it had tested nuclear weapons ignited a frantic effort by the Clinton administration to dissuade Pakistan from doing the same, beginning with a phone call from President Bill Clinton to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and an 18-hour flight to Islamabad in a military plane, refueled in the air, by a high-level U.S. delegation.

More than a week later, Pakistan has not conducted what would be its first nuclear test. U.S. officials believe they may have a little breathing room because nothing is likely to happen before Tuesday, when a Pakistani delegation arrives in Washington for security talks.

But senior U.S. officials said Mr. Sharif might need more than Washington is able to deliver by way of security guarantees if he is going to defy domestic political pressure and refrain from testing.

Pakistan has not made specific security requests and the United States has not made any offer, the officials said. But it is clear that Pakistan cannot be deterred by threats of economic sanctions or incentives such as increased aid or the delivery of combat jets purchased long ago but never turned over to Pakistan because of restrictions voted by Congress.

Only an ironclad commitment to defend Pakistan similar to the U.S. commitment to Japan could carry sufficient weight to persuade Pakistan not to test, Pakistani officials said, and even that might not be enough because the Pakistani public believes Washington did not do enough to deter India's five tests, they said.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

'Nothing Is More Supreme'

India Chief Defends Nuclear Tests After Visit to Site

Compiled by the Staff from Despatch

NEW DELHI — The prime minister of India flew to the desolate site where scientists set off five nuclear explosions last week and declared Wednesday that India would "pay any price" for its security.

"The West argued that while they could have nuclear weapons we couldn't," Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee told a crowd of 4,000 in New Delhi after a three-hour visit to the range. "Why? What crime have we committed?"

Mr. Vajpayee shrugged off international condemnation of the underground blasts in the northwestern desert of Rajasthan, saying the outcry smacked of double standards.

"The West continued to build their nuclear arsenal," he said, "and the kind of arsenal they have built can destroy the world many times over."

After arriving by helicopter at the test site, Mr. Vajpayee congratulated scientists and other workers, then met with villagers in nearby Pokaran, 530 kilometers (330 miles) southwest of New Delhi. Pokaran was also the site of India's first nuclear test, in 1974.

"We are prepared to pay any price and sacrifice for preserving the national security and nothing is more supreme to us," the prime minister told soldiers guarding the site.

Mr. Vajpayee also assailed the foreign media for creating a "false phobia" about fallout from the five tests. For-

ign reporters were not allowed on the trip.

A government spokesman, S.K. Rao, denied news reports that the government had sent a medical team to the Pokaran region to determine whether villagers had been affected by radiation.

Mr. Vajpayee was accompanied to the test site by scientists and prominent political advisers, including Farooq Abdullah, the top politician in Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian state that is a focal point of the tensions between India and Pakistan.

Lal Krishan Advani, the Indian home minister, said this week that Pakistan should stop supporting rebels in Kashmir or be prepared to face the consequences.

In Washington on Tuesday, the State Department spokesman, James Rubin, called on New Delhi to tone down its rhetoric.

But Mr. Advani warned Pakistan again Wednesday not to step up its support for Kashmiri militants. Terrorism, he said, "will be crushed, without fail."

There has been some domestic opposition to the nuclear tests. Dozens of Indian scientists from a number of leading institutions have written open letters protesting the tests, scientists said Wednesday. About 75 of them signed a "letter of dismay," led by scientists from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences in Madras and other top institutions.

"As many scientists work

for governmental organizations, they are afraid of administrative retaliation and of being labeled as traitors," said T. Jayaraman, a nuclear physicist at the institute.

"When we first released our letter a few days ago, we only had 75 signatures and now we have nearly 250."

We stand firmly with the long tradition of eminent scientists who have consistently argued against the induction of nuclear weapons," the letter said.

The Madras institute receives some funding from the Department of Atomic Energy, which managed the nuclear tests.

Mr. Jayaraman said many of his colleagues were saddened by what called India's confusion of national security and scientific achievement in the wake of the tests.

"There has always been an appreciation for great achievements in science and technology and a yearning to show India's capabilities," he said. "The two issues of national security and appreciation have gotten mixed up and this jingoistic stand is not correct."

"But in this environment," he added, "those who are worried and concerned of nuclear consequences cannot stand up immediately and oppose."

(AP, AFP, Reuters)

China Grapples With Aging of Its Population

By Erik Eckholm
New York Times Service

GUANGZHOU, China — Liu Xiaoying, 80, widowed and full of spark, decided to move into the East Wind Elderly Home last autumn. It is a privately run 15-bed facility off a bustling lane where, with help from her seven children, she paid an entrance fee of more than \$1,000 and pays \$90 a month to live. She walks to the park to practice tai chi, she window-shops, she gets visits from her children and grandchildren.

"They are busy working and they just have different living habits from me," she says of her children. "I like it here," she adds, giggling that she has gained weight since arriving.

A boom in old-age homes, in defiance of the traditional practice of parents staying with their children, is one of the more dramatic signs of China's demographic aging.

He Yixi, 35, runs the East Wind center for profit, renting the building from the district government. He also runs a much larger for-profit elderly home, with a nursing wing for the infirm, in another part of the city, as well as two for-profit kindergartens.

"This market has potential," he said of elderly care. "I hope to set up more and more of these homes." His hope is shared by the government, which is inviting individual investors and corporations to operate old-age and nursing homes to help meet a soaring social need.

The graying of the world's largest population, although still in its ini-

tial stage, is already affecting everything from family living traditions to urban attitudes about the merits of sons versus daughters.

The rising proportion of elderly people reflects longer life expectancies and the effects of China's stringent family-planning policies. Many Chinese baby boomers have had only one child and are now facing layoffs at work, giving rise to fears about their fate in old age.

Because the rising share of elderly retirees coincides with the collapse of the Communist system of cradle-to-grave welfare, China must also

face the middle of the coming century, one in every four Chinese will be aged 60 or more.

As in the West, the real challenge will begin when the baby boomers, the offspring of a surge in births in the 1950s, begin to retire after the year 2010, then continue on into their 70s and 80s, many needing financial and physical help.

Right now, more than 120 million Chinese, or about 10 percent of the population, are over 60, the retirement age here for most people. By

the middle of the coming century, because of longer survival and smaller families, one in every four Chinese, or 400 million, will be aged 60 or more, according to government projections. If the aging is not as advanced as in Europe or North America, it is occurring as China remains, at best, a middle-income country, without the resources that advanced Western countries have available to call on.

China's baby boomers face some special problems, said Peng Xizhe, director of the Institute of Population Research at Fudan University in Shanghai. Many of them lost the chance for a good education because of the tumult of the Cultural Revolution of 1966 to 1976, when colleges were often closed down and students were sent to the countryside for a "red education."

Though honoring parents is a pillar of Confucian tradition, the government wrote an obligation of children to help support their parents into a 1996 law on the rights of the elderly and into another law on the rights of women.

A growing awareness of that obligation has even led to a spurt of lawsuits from neglected parents. In each of the last two years, the Qianxi Rural Legal Services Center in Hebei Province has handled about 10 new cases in nearby rural areas involving neglect of parents, said the director, Wang Xuzhen. Some are resolved through mediation while others have gone to court, where the children are forced to pay or are sometimes jailed for neglect.

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TribTech

Japan Leads (but Few Follow) in Switch to Costly Digital Video Camera

By Miki Tanikawa
International Herald Tribune

TOKYO — The advancing wave of digitalization has hit video cameras, making them handier and more streamlined, with higher picture and sound quality.

While still-photography film cameras retain a decisive edge over their digital brethren in image quality, the digital version of the video camera has beaten its analog predecessor, experts say.

In fact, since its debut in the consumer arena in the autumn of 1995, the digital video camera has rapidly been replacing analog video cameras in the Japanese market, where consumer attitudes toward video quality are among the fussiest in the world.

Unit sales of digital video cameras in Japan overtook those of the analog-format kind for the first time last year, with nearly 70 percent of the market, according to Electronics Industries Association of Japan. Now, many retail stores report that more than 80 percent of the video cameras they sell are digital.

But the cameras' high prices have kept consumers at bay in Western markets. The Japanese trade group predicts that in Germany, for example, digital camcorders will not overtake analog ones for another two years, and that it will not happen in the United States until 2001, when digital cameras will account for 3 million of the projected 4.4 million annual camcorder sales.

Prices in Japan range around the equivalent of \$1,500, about 50 percent below their initial prices but still about twice as high as for comparable analog video cameras.

In the United States, digital video cameras cost \$1,800 to \$2,500, while analog

versions range from \$400 to \$800.

Perhaps as a result, digital video cameras hold a paltry 5 percent of the market in the United States and 8 percent in Germany — but those are their highest market shares outside Japan.

In digital video, the picture image is translated into an electronic message by a "charged coupled device." This information is converted into digital signals to be recorded on magnetic tape. Digital cameras still use a magnetic tape, which is one-eighth the size of a conventional videocassette, as their recording medium, rather than the semiconductor-based memory employed by digital still cameras.

Most important, digital video cameras are an improvement over analog camcorders in picture quality.

With horizontal resolution of 500 lines, at least a 20 percent improvement over the best that analog video recorders, they deliver higher image quality with improved color.

Details are more faithfully reproduced, and the wavering images common in analog recording have been significantly cut.

But are some digital video cameras better than others?

Kimihide Takano, electronics analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson (Asia) Ltd., said the quality differences among the various

products on the market were not so great because "digital technology itself is a common commodity for all."

Thus, camcorder users are often drawn to such functionality as a touch-control panel featured in the Sharp VL-EF1, where the user needs only to pinpoint a locale on the liquid crystal display monitor screen to zoom in on the target, or the Panasonic NV-DS7's

multi-image display, which splits the screen into nine blocks to show consecutive still shots, in case you wanted to analyze your golf swings or preserve the best shot as a still picture out of the series of photos capturing a moving image.

Meanwhile, Soyo Corp., the market leader, boasts of its energy-efficient TRV-9, which can operate for more than eight hours without a battery recharge.

Like the digital still camera, the digital video camera is appealing to the ballooning number of Japanese users of personal computers who want to transfer still images, which can be generated by most digital video cameras, through the Internet.

But what is the advantage of using a digital video camera instead of a digital still camera to produce still pictures?

"You don't miss the decisive moment," said Nobuharu Kakegawa, a spokesman for the audio-visual products division at Panasonic, part of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.

As technology and infrastructure for data transmission improve, analysts say, users of digital video cameras may be able to send and receive moving pictures in real time via computers.

"Then you might have mini-broadcasting stations" everywhere, said Akira Kadota, another spokesman for Panasonic.

Theoretically, the same magnetic tape can be used for digital and analog recording, though manufacturers use tape of better quality for digital cameras. A consumer plugs the digital recorder directly into a television or videocassette player to play the tape.

The cassette's tiny size accords digital cameras one of their greatest advantages:

compact body and flexible design that enhance portability and fashion appeal.

Sharp Corp., for instance, sees an elegant woman gracefully shooting moving images at a chic outdoor cafe, using its shape VL-EF1.

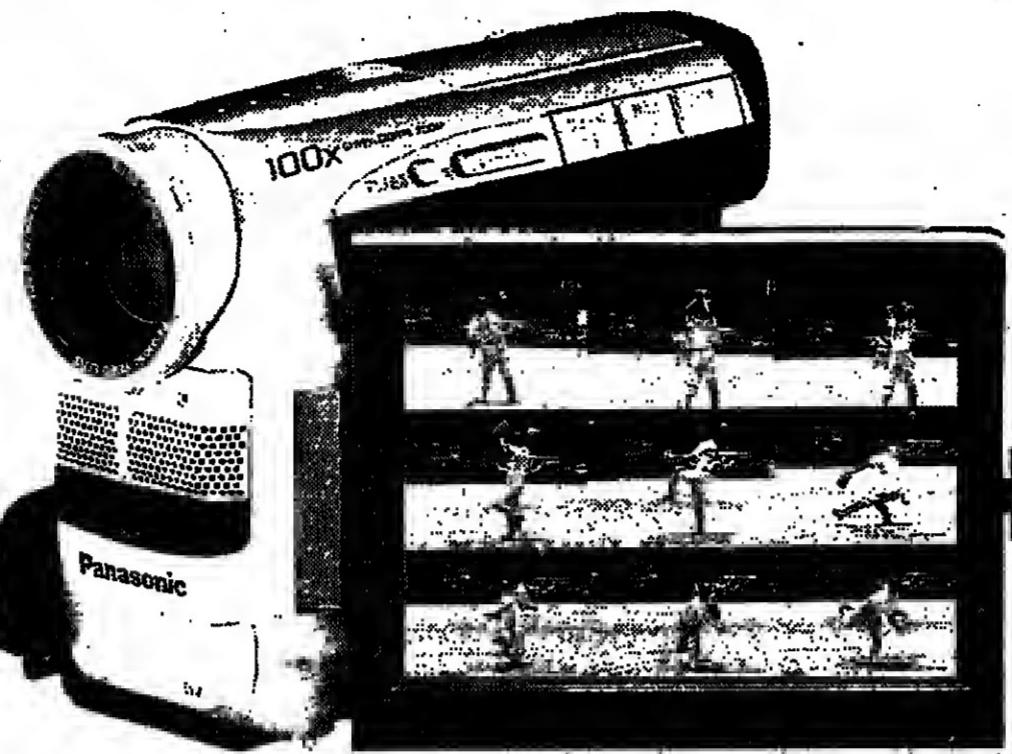
"We wanted to expand the range of population who use video cameras to include people like women in their 20s and older people," a company spokesman, Masaru Yamawaki, said, noting that video cameras had been used predominantly by families with children. "We conceived of a soft and fashionable design and reduced mechanical features like buttons."

The ZR model from Canon Corp. also is an attempt to depart from the common appearance of the video camera and embrace the style of the compact camera. With the camera-like design of the ZR, which weighs only 330 grams (19 ounces), "if you hang it from your neck, you don't have to pull it out from somewhere and then take the shooting posture," said Kakashi Kuniyoshi, chief of the digital products development center at Canon.

The race among makers of digital video cameras is so far confined to five Japanese contenders, while about 30 makers are vying in the cut-throat digital still camera market.

But while most manufacturers are shifting resources to developing digital video cameras, Sony and others remain committed to churning out new analog models and vow to continue to service analog clients, at least for now.

"There will always be people who choose more economical alternatives," said Hiroaki Komatsu, manager of products and marketing public relations at Sony.



The Panasonic NV-DS7 has a multi-image display that can show nine consecutive still shots.

ALT / Commentary

On-Line Identity Crisis: Seeking a Unique Name

After the Web's Arrival, the Deluge of Log-Ons

By Mitchell Martin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — "Please choose a log-on name." Five words that strike terror, or at least ennui, into the heart of your average Netizen. Even before the Internet allowed consumers to deal directly with businesses, there were identities and passwords for mainframes at work, automated teller machines and home and office security systems.

Rarely can you use the same codes for your various accounts. Some need numbers, others letters; most have minimum numbers of characters, all have maximums. Sometimes you pick them yourself, sometimes the provider picks them; sometimes you can change them, and sometimes you cannot.

In the past two years, it has gotten worse, thanks to the Internet, as users take on more identities for on-line brokers, the automated travel agents, the information services, the professional organizations, the retailers. I have about a dozen already; that could double this year.

There are three kinds of Web sites: those that are entirely free, those that

camp some time ago? Shwnee12. Spuds10.

What about Lauriston, the street I used to live on in Paris? Somebody got them first, too. The Times suggested Lauriston1.

Finally, I got a name that did not require a number: Babadanga, the name of a Mozambican warlord.

"That's what you can expect with 4 million unique IDs," said Chris Neimeth, a spokesman for the electronic division of The Times, who confirmed that 216 other Mitches, 281 Martins and 9 Spuds had had to accept numbers attached to their chosen passwords.

Why doesn't the Times — and everybody else — just let users have duplicate names as long as their passwords are different?

"We try and make it as easy as possible," Mr. Neimeth said, noting that if a user forgets his or her password, the Times computer will provide it upon receiving the back-up password, such as the maiden name of the user's mother, that it requested during the initial sign-up.

"We've gone through this issue," Mr. Neimeth said. "It relates to if you forget your password. You might have the same mother's maiden name as somebody else with your log-on."

"Passwords are, unfortunately, the bane of many consumers' existence," said Tom Wang, director of strategic services at Organics Inc., a Web development company. "Many sites require passwords, and those passwords from the consumer's standpoint should be consolidated so that you have only one or two names and passwords."

It was easier, he said, before the advent of the World Wide Web. When the proprietary services of America Online Inc., CompuServe Corp. and Prodigy were synonymous with being on-line, once users logged onto one of the systems, all of the retailers, clubs and information providers associated with that system could immediately recognize them.

Mr. Wang said that in the short run, "portals" to the Web, sites such as Yahoo and Netscape that users often consult at the beginning of an on-line session, might provide a similar singular identity to the Web at large.

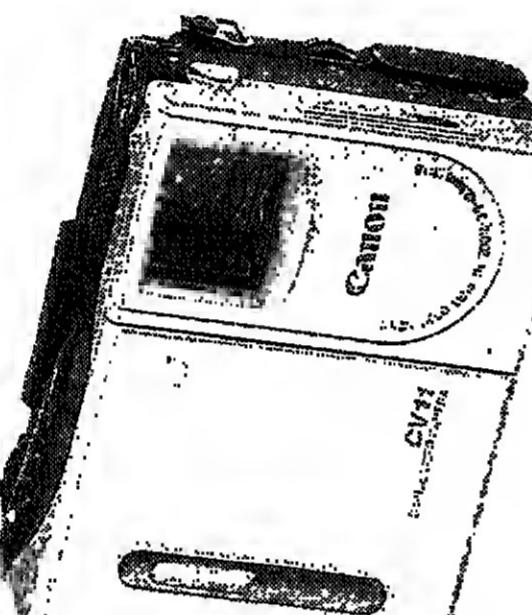
require registration and those that charge money. The free sites allow you to visit and look around, but for the other kinds, you need an identity, which usually consists of a log-on name and a password. Because of differing architectures, they are rarely the same from one site to the next.

I recently tried to register with The New York Times, a parent of this newspaper that is the purveyor of a popular Web site. The site is free for U.S. residents, but it requires a fair amount of information before granting access to such sections as the classified real-estate ads. I provided it and then tried to use my identity something often easy to remember: my name.

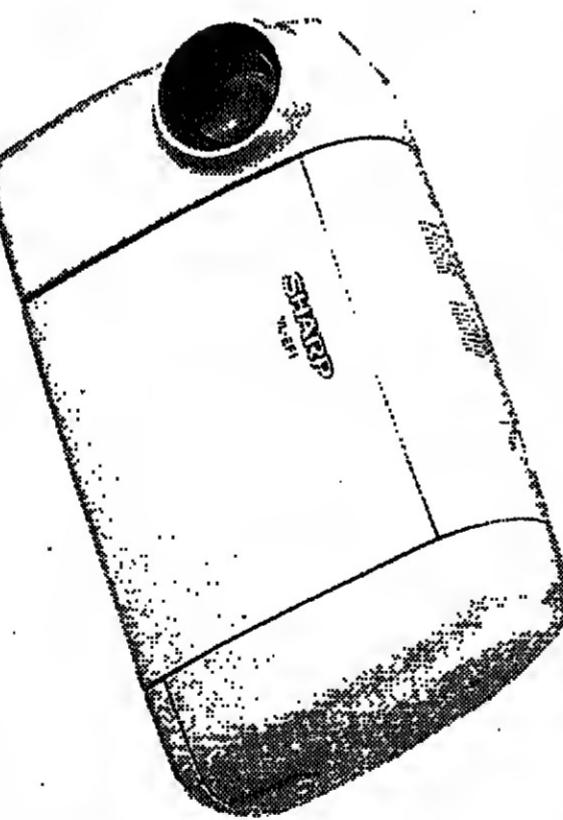
The Times computer politely informed me that my name was taken, and suggested I might like to be Mitch17. Well, not really; how would I remember that? What if some other site wanted me to be Mitch10?

You can store your identities on your computer — and in the case of The Times, the identity can be stored automatically in the preferences folder attached to your browser software — but what if you are traveling and using somebody else's computer? What if you buy a new computer?

So I tried Martin. It suggested Martin282. Obviously, my name was not going to work, I tried Bronx, my native county and an unlikely choice, I thought. The Times suggested Bronx45. Herald? Herald14. Tribune? Tribune6. Shwnee (my bunkhouse at



The CV11, a lightweight digicam from Canon.



Sharp Corp.'s VL-EF1 digital video camera.

BRIEFLY

• CIAO, MICKEY: Walt Disney Co. this week launched its first subscriber-supported Web site in Europe, in partnership with the Internet unit of Telecom Italia SpA.

The Italian phone company and Disney will operate three Italian-language versions of popular Disney Web sites, including an Italian version of Disney's Daily Blast, a subscription-based interactive game service. They will be initially offered to Telecom Italia Network subscribers free of charge but will later require a fee. (Reuters)

• VENTURE SOME CAPITALISTS: U.S. venture-capital investments soared 54 percent, to \$3.6 billion, in the first quarter, led by investments in communications, software and information companies, according to a Price Waterhouse survey released this week.

Investors poured \$1.82 billion, or just over half of the total, into businesses in those categories, the consulting firm's quarterly National Venture Capital Survey said. Health-care companies attracted \$428 million, or 12 percent of the total.

The rate of venture-capital investing matches the record pace set last year. The first quarter's total fell just short of the record of \$3.7 billion set in the fourth quarter of 1997.

Mitchell Martin is editor of the Herald Tribune's Money Report section.

Filmless Cameras Go Mainstream

Taking High-Quality Digital Photos Has Become Affordable

By Marty Katz
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — After a few years of dipping a tentative toe in the marketing waters, computing and photography companies are cooing enough of the promise of a mass market for filmless photography to take a real plunge this spring.

A year ago, making high-quality digital pictures was still the province of newspaper photo departments that could justify \$20,000 cameras, art directors who could buy exotic film scanners and printers and a few brave souls who tried to make amateur digital cameras work well enough for art or commerce. Hardware small companies was adequate for Web images, medium-quality prints, or, in a pinch, useable e-mailed newspaper pictures.

Now things are different.

This spring, manufacturers announced a crop of inexpensive megapixel-and-above cameras at the spring Comdex and Photo Marketing Association shows. A pixel, or picture element, is a dot of color on a photo; the more pixels a camera is capable of producing per photo, the higher the resolution.

There were many less-than-megapixel models in the \$300 to \$600 range, with respectable performance and features. The excitement, though, was about affordable million-pixel cameras able to make images good enough for professional use or impressive prints.

Most were in prototype form; when working models will actually be on store shelves is a question. Most have LCD screens and television outputs, and use easily obtainable AA batteries; they differ in that some have real zoom lenses and some have no zoom or use the camera's computer to create a zoom effect.

Three notable models:

- Nikon: The \$799 MX-700 turns on with a display of tiny, whirling, ruby LEDs and a series of beeps, and it is small enough to fit in a shirt pocket. The resolution is 1.3-megapixels. It has a wide-angle-only lens, but a selectable in-camera sharpening function makes the images sharper. There are several other picture adjustment controls, but the camera uses a built-in, proprietary rechargeable battery. The unit began shipping May 1.

At about the same time that these cameras will be arriving at stores, another camera will be announced: The Kodak 260, originally set for spring release, has become the subject of intense speculation and its sports features that make it the 600-pound gorilla of the affordable megapixel digicam world.

The 260 has been shown to third-party developers, but to Kodak's consternation, they have not been tight-lipped. Features have been posted to Web sites and all indications are that the camera will be quite popular.

The 1.6-million-pixel 260 is said to have a wide-to-telephoto optical zoom lens (not just an electronic enlarging of an image); it is supposed to use the more readily available Compact Flash method of storing photos and AA batteries. It is also said to be priced well under \$1,000.

By comparison, recent high-end professional cameras have only had 1.3 million pixels.

A new 2-million-pixel camera built by Canon, and the DCS520 by project-partner Kodak. At \$14,995 for the camera body only, this full-featured model puts the consumer-level versions in a new perspective.

SITES

C-Net reviews 28 digital cameras at: www.computers.com/reviews/comparative/introl_023_0-21-257997.00.html#st.co.fld.h1.digicams. HyperZine, an on-line digital imaging publication with news and reviews, is at: www.hyperzine.com/.

Eastman Kodak Co. has a "digital learning center" with how-to and reference sections at: www.kodak.com/doiHome/DLC/

TECHNOLOGY INDEX

Glance at technology stock indexes around the world			
North America	Tuesday close	% change previous week	% change year to date
Pacific Stock Exchange Technology	352.99	+1.95	+21.49
Standard & Poor's Technology Composite	874.09	+1.77	+24.88
Europe			
Morgan Stanley Eurotec	577.81	+2.40	+49.99
Asia			
Topix Electric	1822.68	+1.06	+10.86

For technology articles from the past week, see the Technology Index on the IHT's World Wide Web site at <http://www.iht.com>. Articles include:

- High-Tech Immigration, May 20
- Can Microsoft Put On a Friendlier Face?, May 20
- Sharing Kodak Moments by E-Mail, May 20
- Savvy Microsoft Hires 'Best Lobbyists Money Can Buy', May 20
- EU & U.S. Seek Ban on Internet Tariffs, May 20
- British Biotech Chief to Quit, May 20
- Justice Department Fires First Salvo at Microsoft, May 19
- Satellite 'Constellation' Wires the Earth, May 19
- Why Buy PC Muscle You'll Never Use?, May 18
- Call to Protect Internet Privacy, May 15

To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT technology coverage, send e-mail to tribtech@iht.com.

deo Camera

compact body and flexible design enhance portability and fashion. elegant women gracefully showing off images at a chic outdoor exhibition. Its shape: VLEF!

We wanted to expand the range of people who like video cameras and older people," a company spokesman, Masaru Yamawaki, a company spokesman, said. "We conceived of a soft and simple design and reduced mechanical

The ZR model from Canon Co. is an attempt to depart from the appearance of the video cameras that have the style of the compact cameras, which weighs only 50 grams. You don't have to pull it out of your pocket and then take the screen off the digital products developed at Canon.



Mo Mowlam, Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, and Richard Branson, head of Virgin Airlines, strolling Wednesday through the center of Belfast.

EUROPE

Blair in Final Plea to Wavering Ulster Protestants

Compiled by Our Staff Writers

BELFAST — Prime Minister Tony Blair was flying to Belfast on Wednesday to make a final pitch for wavering Protestant voters two days before a referendum on a proposed Northern Ireland peace accord.

With a third of Protestants still undecided over the April 10 peace settlement that Mr. Blair worked to achieve, he was making his third visit within three weeks to the province in a bid to secure a convincing 70 percent "yes" vote.

Although an overwhelming majority of Roman Catholic nationalists back the accord, guaranteeing its endorsement, the deep divisions within the Protestant community, which favors continued union with Britain, threaten to make the deal unworkable.

President Bill Clinton, who has thrown his weight behind the "yes" campaign again Wednesday urged Protestants to back the deal, which aims to end 30 years of sectarian conflict that

has claimed 3,200 lives. Writing in Belfast's unionist Newsletter and Britain's biggest selling newspaper, The Sun, Mr. Clinton said:

"As a friend of Northern Ireland and the representative of a country that is home to so many from our land, I urge you to say 'yes' to peace."

"What future will the children have if you vote 'no' and throw away the chance for peace? The world is watching you and the world is with you."

An opinion poll showed that voters in both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland intend to back the peace plan for the British-ruled province in twin plebiscites on Friday.

But the survey showed that the 60-percent Protestant majority in Northern Ireland remained divided on the agreement.

Mr. Blair, eager to stop any weakening of support for the plan, will say: "This agreement is the best opportunity for peace. It is underpinned by consent and nothing can happen to the Northern

Irish people unless the people want it to happen."

But Mr. Blair, whose speech was released by his office before he flew out to the province, acknowledged that the unionists have deep-seated concerns.

The Good Friday peace deal preserves Northern Ireland's links with Britain but builds closer ties with the mainly Roman Catholic Republic of Ireland.

Mindful of the split in the pro-British camp, Mr. Blair and the leader of the Conservative opposition in Parliament, William Hague, were poised to join forces in a late-hour bid to shore up the "yes" campaign.

On Tuesday, in an extraordinary display of solidarity, the Irish rock star Bono was pictured in leading Irish and British newspapers holding hands with the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, and the man who has been his leading opponent, the moderate Irish nationalist John Hume.

Mr. Bono invited the province's two most powerful politicians and the leaders of its divided communities on stage at a televised concert in Belfast, to a standing ovation. To cheers from the crowd of 2,500 young people, he welcomed "two men who have taken a leap of faith out of the past and into the future."

They greeted each other with broad smiles and a big handshake, which signified the agreement's attempt to end divisions between Catholics and Protestants fueled by centuries of tension over Britain's role on the island.

The move was aimed at persuading doubters to ignore a "no" campaign led by senior figures in Mr. Trimble's own party and two smaller unionist parties, which has gained momentum in recent weeks. But the concert drew scornful comments from a prominent opponent of the accord, the Reverend Ian Paisley.

"Mr. Trimble is going to rock and roll; He's rocking already and he's going to roll after the 22nd," referendum day, Mr. Paisley said. (AFP, Reuters)

BRIEFLY

Italian Justice Aide Retained by Prodi

ROME — Justice Minister Giovanni Maria Flick of Italy offered his resignation Wednesday to Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who rejected it.

Mr. Flick has come under fire after a Mafia boss, Pasquale Cuntrera, and one of Italy's most notorious criminals, Licio Gelli, fled before they could be rearrested after appeals trials.

Mr. Cuntrera, who was extradited from Venezuela, faced 21 years in prison after he was convicted of running an international drugs ring. He was about to be rearrested on corruption charges. Mr. Gelli fled earlier this month before the Supreme Court confirmed his conviction and 12-year jail sentence for fraud. (Reuters)

there and is signed into law by Governor Christie Whitman. She has said that she is in accord with the goals of the bill but hesitant to enact sanctions.

Despite objections from the U.S. State Department, the bill approved Monday in Trenton would ban state investments in Swiss banks or financial institutions unless they cooperate in returning assets to the families of Holocaust victims.

New Jersey has 280,000 shares in the Union Bank of Switzerland, worth some \$85 million, that would be divested if the bill is approved. (AP)

NATO Sifts Options

BRUSSELS — NATO's council of ambassadors reviewed military options Wednesday, including sending troops to protect Albania and Macedonia from unrest in the neighboring Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

"No decision has been taken yet" on the recommended course of action, a NATO official said, adding that a consensus among the 16 member states was still being sought.

Two reports, one military and the other political, "oo possible action were presented to the ambassadors at their weekly meeting. The reports will be worked on before being presented to foreign ministers from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization when they meet in Luxembourg next week. (AP)

Mainstream
is Become Affordable

SITES
in the market. It is now common to see people in the field in real estate, construction, engineering, and other industries. The market is becoming more competitive, and the demand for skilled workers is increasing. This is driving up wages and benefits, making it easier for companies to attract and retain talent.

Yeltsin's Litany of Woes: Markets, Miners, Duma

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — As troubles continue to rain down on Russia's new government, President Boris Yeltsin — himself now facing the latest in a series of impeachment votes — is trying to reassure jittery investors that the country would not shift off its "balanced, finely tuned course."

The week began with a sharp drop on Russia's financial markets, where prices fell 12 percent on Monday. On Tuesday, after spending more than \$500 million to protect the ruble, the central bank raised refinancing rates from 30 to 50 percent, an increase that will bite into Russia's already over-extended budget.

In a sign of ripening popular discontent, meanwhile, a sit-in by striking miners in the Kuzbass region, which has held up traffic on the Trans-Siberian railroad over the last six days, is spreading across the country, as teachers, doctors, students and miners from the far north to southern Russia staged protests over unpaid salaries and miserly stipends.

A state of emergency has been declared in the Kemerovo region, where the Kuzbass mines are situated, in deal with backed-up rail traffic. According to one report, a total of 300 cargo trains, and some 120 passenger trains, have been idled by the strikers, causing delays of up to 35 hours on the Trans-Siberian line, the world's longest.

Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov said that the bill for mine's unpaid salaries — backed up over six months — equaled almost \$600 million.

"People's anger and lack of trust in the federal authorities are so deep that this may lead to a mighty explosion that will reach Moscow," Anatoly Tuleyev, the Communist governor of the Kemerovo region, said Tuesday.

To add to the Kremlin's list of political worries, the opposition-dominated Parliament, the State Duma, voted Tuesday to delay a vote on the ratification of START-2 — a slap at Mr. Yeltsin who had publicly called for ratification of the arms control treaty this summer — and on Wednesday, members of the Federation Council, or upper house, approved a Communist-drafted

bill that would ban the buying and selling of agricultural land.

The latest impeachment move against Mr. Yeltsin, pushed by the Communists, is probably doomed to fail, as others have been before it.

But it took the opposition little time on Wednesday to gather 177 signatures to move ahead with hearings on a 12-page indictment, which accuses the president of treason and of orchestrating the country's economic collapse.

"We have warned time and again that his policy would lead to disaster," said Gennadi Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Communist Party.

The heated challenge to the Kremlin's policies to Moscow and outside comes at a moment when the race to succeed Mr. Yeltsin — when and if he retires at the end of his current term in 2000 — has officially begun.

With the election last Sunday of his old foe, Alexander Lebed, as governor of a Siberian region, political commentators and contributors have focused on the lack of a strong and plausible candidate — other than the president himself — who could carry on Mr. Yeltsin's

brand of economic reform.

But for now, Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko, the 35-year-old former banker who was pushed onto the national stage by Mr. Yeltsin a month and a half ago, is the one who has to steer the Russian economy through the crises that have erupted into the open in the last few weeks, spoiling any hopes of a hony-moon period.

"Mr. Kiriyenko is in a very unlucky situation," noted Mikhail Berger, chief editor of *Svoboda*, a daily newspaper, "but if it weren't an unlucky situation, he wouldn't be in it."

So far, Mr. Kiriyenko has proved himself to be a tough negotiator, arguing that any money for the striking miners can not be drawn on credit — as was done in the past — but has to come from cuts to the budget.

"I want to underline that we can not and will not go the way of additional financing in response to protest actions," he said in an interview with the newspaper *Vremya*. "If the government weakens on this, you understand where that will lead. Here the position of the government is very tough."

The collapse on the Russian financial markets this week only served to underscore concerns about the country's fiscal crunch, now scrutiny by a team from the International Monetary Fund in Moscow to review Russia's eligibility for the next \$700 million installment of a three-year loan program.

New Yugoslav Leader Girds for Battle

Compiled by Our Staff Writers

BELGRADE — Momir Bulatovic, the new prime minister of Yugoslavia, took office Wednesday, spoiling for a fight with reformist leaders of Montenegro who vowed to boycott his government.

Mr. Bulatovic, a close ally of Yugoslavia's socialist president, Slobodan Milosevic, was ratified without opposition in the two federal Parliament chambers, but his Montenegrin opponents were absent when they voted.

Montenegrin reformers, led by the public's president, Milo Djukanovic, warned that Mr. Bulatovic's appointment put Serbia and Montenegro on a collision course that could destroy the Yugoslav Federation, in which the two republics are supposed to be equal partners.

As he was sworn into office before both Parliament chambers Wednesday,

Mr. Bulatovic confirmed his intentions "of working for the preservation of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity" of Yugoslavia.

He also said he "was not worried" by the fact that the only party from Montenegro present in the Parliament was his own.

Mr. Djukanovic blames Mr. Milosevic's domination of Serbia, which dwarfs Montenegro economically, for Yugoslavia's international economic and diplomatic isolation.

The crux of the crisis between the republics is over whether Yugoslavia should become a modern, market-driven democratic state envisioned by Mr. Djukanovic, or remain under the sway of former Communists, who have held a monopoly of power for more than 50 years.

The reformers said Mr. Milosevic

handed Mr. Bulatovic the prestige and power of his federal post to try to tilt Montenegrin parliamentary elections on May 31 in his ally's favor.

Mr. Djukanovic, who defeated Mr. Bulatovic for the Montenegrin presidency last year, is fighting to retain control of the Parliament, which provides him with powerful constitutional weapons with which to wage his war against Mr. Milosevic.

Given Mr. Milosevic's reluctance to reduce his grip on state control of the Serbian economy, political sources said this was a clear threat to attack efforts by Mr. Djukanovic to liberalize in Montenegro, which has an active privatization program.

The republic's freedom of action is limited because in some key areas it is subject to federal law. (Reuters, AP)

Murder Trial Opens With Gucci Flair

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

sympathy for them."

Three of Mrs. Reggiani's four alleged accomplices appeared in court elegantly attired, as befits a celebrity trial in the fashion capital of Italy. Pina Aurumma, 52, Mrs. Reggiani's longtime personal astrologer, who is accused of arranging the murder, hid behind huge designer sunglasses on a bench. Benito Cerullo, the accused gunman, and Orazio Cicala, the alleged driver, were locked in an iron cage in the courtroom, both wearing dashing sports jackets that clashed with their handcuffs.

The basics facts are not in dispute: Mr. Gucci was shot from behind on March 27, 1995, as he climbed the steps to his Milan office by a gunman, who then sped away in a green Renault Clio.

Mr. Gucci had many enemies, and police investigators initially thought his murder might be connected to either Gucci family quarrels or some of his most recent business deals.

Mr. Gucci, who inherited 50 percent of the family business after the death of his father in 1983, spent his own and the company's income so recklessly that he was forced to sell his shares to a Bahrain-based investment group, Investcorp, 10 years later.

In 1991, Guccio Gucci posted a \$31.6 million net loss. Stripped of family tolerance, Gucci has since recovered and in financial year 1997, Gucci turned a \$175.5 million profit.

Who was killed, Mr.

Reggiani, 51, did not appear at the opening Tuesday. One of her lawyers, Giovanni Maria Dedola, said that she was ill and may not be well enough to testify until mid-July. Once a sparkling and extravagant member of Italy's jet-set, she has become known in the Italian press as "The Black Widow."

Her lawyers say she is heavily medicated and deeply depressed, which may not be surprising. Mrs. Reggiani is famous for having once said, "I would rather weep in a Rolls-Royce than be happy on a bicycle."

No Gucci family members were present. Maurizio Gucci, who fought and exchanged lawsuits with all his relatives and ousted his uncle Aldo from the New York branch of the business in the mid-1980s — Aldo Gucci, then 78, went to jail for fraud — was apparently not deeply mourned at home.

"The Gucci men are alike — amoral," said Jennifer Gucci, the former wife of Paolo Gucci, a cousin who died two years ago. "They are multimillionaire playboys — nobody has a lot of

on his sumptuous yacht.

After 12 years of marriage, he divorced Mrs. Reggiani in 1985 without warning. Mrs. Reggiani, who had custody of their two daughters, never heard her bitterness. In 1995, after her murder, she dismissed her former husband as fatally weak, telling *Vanity Fair*, "Maurizio was simply a thing called Gucci that had to be washed and dressed."

Mrs. Reggiani was arrested in 1997, when investigators, working with an undercover police officer, found two contract killers. Mr. Saviozzi did not appear Tuesday but is expected to testify that he discussed the plot with Mrs. Reggiani before the murder.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Software Winner

Ron Dennis,
Managing Director
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McLaren is one of the winningest teams in Formula One history.

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"I have a favorite saying, that is, to come in second is to be the first of the losers," says Ron Dennis. "At McLaren we're interested only in winning and we associate ourselves only with winning companies. With Computer Associates and McLaren, we have two winning companies sharing a common goal and common partnership."

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International Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Indonesian Elections

Indonesia does not have a history of peaceful political succession.

During the fight for power won by Suharto in 1966, perhaps half a million people on the country's political left were murdered. Violence on that scale is not likely to be repeated today, but it should be a warning to a country that has already seen 500 people perish in political unrest over the last few weeks. Mr. Suharto's hazy pledge Tuesday to hold elections and step down merely promises further indecision, political manipulation and confrontation. To avoid anarchy, Indonesia urgently needs democratic elections that give people a voice in a new government.

Mr. Suharto's plan for elections is anything but rapid and free. It relies on a rigged system for selecting a president similar to the one that has faithfully chosen Mr. Suharto for the presidency seven times since he assumed power. He has been elected by a People's Consultative Assembly, a body of 1,000 members. Half are government appointed, and 75 others are chosen by the military. The remaining 425 members are chosen in elections where only government-approved

parties can compete. On Tuesday, Mr. Suharto said that he wanted parliamentarians and government appointees to vote on his successor.

Indonesians should have the opportunity to select their president through direct balloting. If that reform is too great to make during a crisis, the entire membership of the People's Consultative Assembly should at least be chosen in free elections open to every political party.

The transition must be rapid. As long as Mr. Suharto clings to power, political turmoil will continue. This can only encourage the military, the country's most powerful institution, to intervene, perhaps even by seizing power itself. For the moment, the army command appears to continue to back Mr. Suharto. It should avoid a direct political role and restrict itself to preventing looting and violence.

Mr. Suharto's best service to his country now would be to set in motion a fully democratic transition and then resign. He can start by setting a summer date for free presidential and legislative elections open to all parties.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Talking With the Taliban

The expected impediments are complicating what is otherwise the first promising effort to end Afghanistan's decadelong post-Cold War civil war. America's UN ambassador, Bill Richardson, had succeeded in finally opening talks between the radical Islamic Taliban movement and the opposition.

But the Taliban was blocking the passage of food desperately needed in opposition areas. Through consultations in Pakistan, the Taliban pledged to partly lift that blockade. Meanwhile, the two armies, which share no trust and spent the winter preparing for warm-weather battle, are eyeing a military stand-down.

The war is about two conceptions of modernization, the Taliban's fundamentalist one and the opposition's more secular version. (So extreme is the Taliban that, though it controls most Afghan territory, including Kabul, only Saudi Arabia has recognized it—that is, bought it off.)

The Taliban difference came out in consultations on a proposed religious scholars' commission that would look into a cease-fire, a return of prisoners and a process of establishing a gov-

ernment. The Taliban wanted its 20 members and the opposition's 20 to meet its ideological standards. The opposition preferred to make its own choices. The Taliban has now withdrawn its proposal, but a political bazaar is opening.

The Taliban is in contact with non-governmental organizations that act as the humanitarian arm of the United Nations. They are trying to work out terms that will spare the organizations Taliban's persecution and let them do their vital service. The "six plus two"—Afghanistan's six neighbors (including Iran) plus America and Russia—are improvising, nudging the Afghan sides from their diverse perspectives.

Their common goal is a peace allowing rehabilitation and regional integration through large energy projects:

The Indian nuclear explosions do not diminish the American stake in enabling Central Asian oil and gas to flow through a postwar Afghanistan into struggling Pakistan and thence to energy-hungry India. Ending a terrible war is justification enough for American diplomatic engagement.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Microsoft and Politics

The legal impact of the lawsuits against Microsoft was accompanied by a more subtle subversion in the ideological realm. The old certainties of conservative opposition to government intervention, fixed since the Reagan era, are shifting on this issue. New technologies, new business rules and, perhaps most important, the power of lobbying and campaign money are producing odd new alliances and redefining what is left and right and who is up or down.

Take, for example, the unexpected Republican support for Attorney General Janet Reno's antitrust activism. Her hand has been strengthened immeasurably because of the backing she receives from Utah Senator Orrin Hatch, one of the chief critics of her chronic passivity on campaign finance. Mr. Hatch, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, represents a state with at least one big software rival to Microsoft.

Ms. Reno has also benefited from the fact that Trent Lott has uttered not a peep of criticism about the Clinton administration's handling of Microsoft. Newt Gingrich has sounded downright approving.

The company's Republican defenders are much less weighty figures, including its home-state senator, Slade Gorton and that ever-grumpy ideologue Dick Armey.

For a long time Microsoft was an amateur at influencing Washington. It has now stepped up its lobbying and campaign contributions. The irony is that a company long identified with a liberal point of view is trying to make up for lost time with money and hired operatives from the conservative wing of the Republican Party.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, it is the leading donor among computer companies to federal candidates and parties. It has also hired such well-known Repub-

lican operatives as Haley Barbour, Michael Deaver, Grover Norquist and former Representative Vin Weber.

But arrayed against Microsoft is an impressive list of Republicans as well, including former Senator Bob Dole.

By far the most startling antagonist of Microsoft's is Robert Bork.

This former judge and law professor

was once known as an apostle of the Chicago School, which questioned whether there are any economic benefits to antitrust enforcement. Both Microsoft and its rivals woed Mr. Bork, but the critics won him over. He has asserted that Microsoft violated the law by using its dominant position in computer operating systems to promote its own browser over that of its rival, Netscape, a view held by the Clinton Justice Department. No less interesting was the presence of six Republicans on the list of attorneys general filing suit this week, including Dennis Vacco in New York.

There is fracturing on the libertarian side as well. The most ringing defense of Microsoft now comes from the Cato Institute in Washington. On the other hand, some of Microsoft's critics are Silicon Valley entrepreneurs who once shared the anti-regulatory position embraced by Microsoft. Now the backbone of high-tech wants the government to level the playing field.

Obviously a world of politics and policy driven by lobbying and campaign contributions is not a healthy place. But we may be seeing a welcome new consensus emerging that government has a role to play and that it should not be ridiculed on reflex for every intervention. This Democratic administration is arguing that there is an intelligent place for government oversight in cyberspace, just as there is in the environment, the workplace and the worlds of retirement and health care. Some surprisingly powerful Republicans seem to agree.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Celebrity, Status and Sirloin in the New Moscow

By Jim Hoagland

MOSCOW — The Monolith Club reflects the private sensibility of Russia's new elite: exclusive, expensive and deeply concerned about its security and reputation. To get to the piano bar, the lavish dining room or the health club's 300 members and guests step through a metal detector at the entrance that would make most airports proud.

For an American visitor, the metal detector is an update on the "Check Your Guns" signs hung in the saloons of the Wild West a century ago. The Monolith, and the score or more other upper-tier hideaways that have sprung up in Moscow in the last two years, provide cases of alcohol and glamour in the rough and tumble of frontier capitalism that rages just outside the door.

But there is no Russian Miss Kitty to encourage you to down a vodka. There is instead a tasting of premium Scotch whiskies in the piano bar, where a vocalist from San Diego is belting out Frank Sinatra tunes. You are greeted in this saloon by the flashbulb of an accomplished young Russian photographer who can be coaxed into showing you the impressive portraits he has done of Sharon Stone, Robert De Niro, Alito Ginsberg, Luciano Pavarotti and

a galaxy of other notables he has encountered here or abroad.

The Monolith is a slice of globalized life in post-Soviet Moscow, where celebrity and status exert as strong a pull as they do in any Western capital. For the first time in a dozen trips to Moscow over the past dozen years, I find myself occasionally looking around this club of my hotel room and having to think hard to recall which city I am visiting.

That in many ways is progress. The distinctive grimness of life, the constant tension and general deprivation of Soviet times, are out things to be missed.

The buzz in the Monolith is familiar for the visitor from Bill Clinton's America. Here, too, Topic A is the stock market.

Russia's Wall Street has taken a pounding over the past week and lost 16 percent of its value. The ruble, after a long period of stability, is again under attack. The new downturn in Asia is ricocheting around the globe, and Russia is taking the first big hit. Several diners wonder what George Soros, the Wall Street financier who made a bil-

lion off the last British pound devaluation and has invested big here, is doing. But no one is sure.

There is a sense of fortunes rising and falling at some of these tables between the fish soup and baked sturgeon (unless you have ordered the New York strip sirloin). It is a yin and yang moment of capitalism, familiar in the West but new here, when intimations of adverse reality suddenly chill the forced euphoria of a tentative boom.

Or, as Italy's Antonio Gramsci, the most humanistic of communist intellectuals, put it in a different context: "The pessimism of the intellect is a good corrective to the optimism of the will."

The room is filled with Russians who have risen above the pessimism of the intellect and seized their moment with both hands.

On each visit to the new Moscow I am reminded of the financier created by the English novelist Anthony Trollope at the end of the 19th century:

"Such a man rises above hotheadedness when he sacrifices an army to conquer a nation. Such greatness is incompatible with small scruples. A pygmy man

is stopped by a little ditch, but a giant stalks over the rivers."

Fortunes in Russia today are made primarily in energy, other extractive industries, banking and media conglomerates. It is a mark of the times that diplomats feel that Anatoli Chubais, once Boris Yeltsin's right-hand man, has suffered no loss in influence by moving out of government to take over the national electricity corporation, a dominant player on the stock market.

But the Russians who are in touch with the world economy are a tiny minority in a country that is far from being a rags-to-riches story. This is still a rags-and-riches story. Life expectancy in Russia continues to fall, with today's population of 147 million projected to drop to 123 million by 2030 if no corrective action is taken to deal with the nation's alarming and mounting health problems.

Russia has operated on willpower for most of the past decade, running, stumbling, climbing back to its feet on a road it is still discovering. Russia remains a journalistic dream: a new story, with a still unforeseeable outcome, as well as a news story.

The Washington Post.

Marx's Plan Didn't Work, but He Did Understand Capitalism

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Marx and Engels's Communist Manifesto, which is 150 years old this year, did not change the world for which it was written. The manifesto proved nonsense as forecast of the workings of a supposed dialectic of history, and it was disastrous in its political consequences. It produced the utopian totalitarianism of Lenin and Stalin, with systematic and destructive attack upon every rational conception of reform.

The leaders inspired by Marx and Engels understood that while it was profitable to them to preach anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism and anti-fascism, the real threat to them came from the social democratic, Christian democratic and liberal reform movements of 19th and 20th century Europe and America.

However, the ideological identity that Marx and Engels had given to communism, as the sole historical alternative to capitalism, meant the capitalists themselves came to believe this, and when the communist movement failed, 80 years after it had come to power in Russia, this seemed an unqualified validation of capitalism.

Most voters in the industrial nations undoubtedly take for granted the system in which

everyone today would acknowledge that Marx and Engels were prophetic analysts of capitalism. Their account of a reformed dialectic of history, and it was disastrous in its political consequences. It produced the utopian totalitarianism of Lenin and Stalin, with systematic and destructive attack upon every rational conception of reform.

Their description of a contentious and predatory system finds echo among globalism's critics today, even those who believe, with Margaret Thatcher, that there is no alternative to the system that now prevails among the industrialized nations and a large part of the non-Western world.

Marx's collapse has seemed to rule out critiques of modern capitalism as irrelevant and to make proposals to reform it seem futile or utopian. A basic division of opinion exists today between those who think that a choice of society does still exist and those who believe that no choices remain in the famous formulation of Francis Fukuyama (and in a sense he did not intend, but which was implicit in what he wrote), history has ended.

This division exists inside countries but also divides certain nations from others, notably in setting what can be called the Atlantic countries—the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands and certain others—from those in which voters are prepared to believe that contemporary capitalism can or should be changed, or at least that it can

be reconciled with the model of social capitalism, or welfare capitalism, that emerged in Western Europe and Scandinavia after World War II.

The Germans and French are leaders of the latter group. The next German national election, in September, will turn in part on social and welfare issues. In France these issues were responsible for a devastating defeat of the conservative government in parliamentary elections a year ago.

The French Communist newspaper *L'Humanité* recently commissioned a national poll on attitudes toward capitalism. Asked whether they felt enthusiasm about capitalism, or bore indifference, fear or rebellion, 22 percent said enthusiasm or hope, and 53 percent said fear or rebellion. This was a cross section of the entire population.

The 10 values that the French respondents to this poll associated with capitalism were, in order of importance, technological innovation, egotism, competitiveness, creation of riches, unequal opportunity, progress, social exclusion, freedom of expression, devolution of work and insecurity.

But people believe that the system can be changed. Ninety percent of those polled in France said they wanted change: 13 percent radical change, 33 percent "change in depth," 44 percent improvements in the system. Only 5 percent were content with the economic system as it is.

A belief in the possibility of change characterizes the German Social Democrats (and Greens), who are now considered likely to win power in September. The Socialist-led government in France is committed to reconciling the social commitments already made in France with economic reform.

It is, of course, one thing to want change and another thing to succeed with it. The interesting thing is that the two countries that will dominate "Euroland"—the new European monetary bloc—to come into existence in January—resist the free-market consensus on the irreconcilability of a successful economy with a welfare state.

That is a significant fact as the emergence of European monetary union itself.

International Herald Tribune.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

How America Can Head Off an Arms Race in South Asia

By Selig S. Harrison

fers from Saddam Hussein and Moammar Gadhafi.

Productive negotiations with New Delhi are still possible.

Although India last week declared itself a "nuclear weapons state," it has not yet decided whether to deploy nuclear weapons in its armed forces and, if so, how extensively. The purpose of testing, Indian leaders say, was to demonstrate a capability to make sophisticated nuclear weapons and to deploy them on short notice, especially a nuclear warhead for its Agni intermediate-range ballistic missile.

The decision to test last week

was in large part a response to domestic political pressures that are now likely to subside. Six weeks ago, when Pakistan tested a new missile capable of reaching deep into Indian territory, the new Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpeyi felt compelled to respond strongly. The purpose of testing, Indian leaders say, was to demonstrate a capability to make sophisticated nuclear weapons and to deploy them on short notice, especially a nuclear warhead for its Agni intermediate-range ballistic missile.

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OPINION/LETTERS

Seeking Peace in Ireland, Where the Past Is Present

By Maureen Dowd

BELOWFAST — Here is what you need to know about the Irish soul: We are an unforgiving people. We believe in the evil eye. We like to fight. We do not like to compromise. We lie in wait for the worst. We lurk about in the past.

When I first moved to New York, I called my mother to tell her I was going to stay in a residential hotel called the Oliver Cromwell. There was a long pause, then tearful anger.

"He encouraged his soldiers to throw babies up in the air and impale them on their swords as they came down!" she snapped. I found another hotel. In Irish time, 1651 and 1981 were only moments apart.

I grew up in a house where my father put cardboard boxes and round tin cans, with green and white wrappers that read "End Irish Partition," on the piano and sideboard. He would urge anyone who came to visit, "Empty your pockets! Big Shot!"

Everything has changed in Ireland, yet nothing has changed. The bad blood is still bad. The ideologies are still segregated. In the south, Catholics think of themselves as Irish. In the six northeast counties, Protestants think of themselves as British, or as my mother sniffs, "hyphenated Irish." Scotch-Irish, Anglo-Irish, Presbyterians that the English resented in Ireland during the reign of Elizabeth I.

On the surface, the contest over the peace agreement is quiet, bubbling along in its last few days with simplistic "yes" and "no" messages. The "yes" campaign is still trying to figure out if the top of the telephone pole is a better spot for posters than the middle.

But this is a subterranean, conspiratorial place. As the Reverend Colin McGrady at St. Brigid's Catholic Church notes dryly, "You can't underestimate the hidden currents."

Northern Ireland has been saying "no" for so long, it is resistant and confused about saying "yes." This is a bleak, howling Lear landscape of bombed-out buildings and concertina wire and 24-hour funeral homes, where nothing comes of nothing. "We've said 'no' too many times," said Trevor Craig, a cabdriver.

"There is security in the insecurity put forth by Ian Paisley," agreed Gary McMichael, a Unionist leader who is campaigning on the side of the peace agree-

ment, even though his father was killed by an IRA car bomb. "We're not happy unless we're fighting with somebody."

In his novel "Trinity," Leon Uris wrote, "In Ireland, there is no future, only the past happening over and over." And many find immense comfort in that. Ladies in straw hats and gentlemen in suits come to the Paisley Jubilee Complex here to listen to the bigoted "Dr. No" who has made a career out of denigrating Catholics.

"A nasty journalist asked me, 'Why is it always "no"?' the Reverend Ian Paisley bellowed from the pulpit, "and I said that the Lord gave us Ten Commandments and he said 'no' in nine of them."

Mr. Paisley calls Protestants "the best" race. And some Protestants privately admit they do not want Catholics to have an equal share. Ken Maginnis, a top Unionist, sees a lot of bigotry. Selling the peace referendum to his Protestant constituents in the north, he says: "I use the euphemism 'responsible sharing.' It goes down a little better than 'power sharing.'

The uneasy partners working on the peace campaign are caught in the whirlwind. They have surprised themselves by getting this far, by being held up as miraculous paragons for peace. Tony Blair and David Trimble and Gerry Adams have called in all their chips and now they must go forward — stumbling, promising, miscalculating.

The Protestant faction was furious at Mr. Adams last week when he sent the "yes" vote dinging by going on stage and raising clenched fists with IRA bombers temporarily released from prison, the notorious Balcombe Street Gang. Mr. Trimble excoriated Mr. Adams, saying the rally reinforced the abhorrence in which he is rightly held."

One friend of Mr. Adams' speculated that the Sinn Fein leader might be just as happy if the new Northern Ireland Assembly collapsed: "It's a huge deal to change from a rebel to part of the establishment. He'd have to really deliver."

Even if the referendum passes as expected, it may not have a convincing Protestant majority, and dissenters can wreck the new assembly from the inside. This is, after all, Ireland, where the past is present.

The New York Times



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nonproliferation Policy

India's nuclear tests are a shock but hardly a surprise. Throughout

the south, Catholics think of themselves as Irish. In the six northeast counties, Protestants think of themselves as British, or as my mother sniffs, "hyphenated Irish." Scotch-Irish, Anglo-Irish, Presbyterians that the English resented in Ireland during the reign of Elizabeth I.

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ment, even though his father was killed by an IRA car bomb. "We're not happy unless we're fighting with somebody."

In his novel "Trinity," Leon Uris wrote, "In Ireland, there is no future, only the past happening over and over."

The uneasy partners working on the peace campaign are caught in the whirlwind. They have surprised themselves by getting this far, by being held up as miraculous paragons for peace. Tony Blair and David Trimble and Gerry Adams have called in all their chips and now they must go forward — stumbling, promising, miscalculating.

The Protestant faction was furious at Mr. Adams last week when he sent the "yes" vote dinging by going on stage and raising clenched fists with IRA bombers temporarily released from prison, the notorious Balcombe Street Gang. Mr. Trimble excoriated Mr. Adams, saying the rally reinforced the abhorrence in which he is rightly held."

One friend of Mr. Adams' speculated that the Sinn Fein leader might be just as happy if the new Northern Ireland Assembly collapsed: "It's a huge deal to change from a rebel to part of the establishment. He'd have to really deliver."

Even if the referendum passes as expected, it may not have a convincing Protestant majority, and dissenters can wreck the new assembly from the inside. This is, after all, Ireland, where the past is present.

The New York Times

India and doubtful in Pakistan's. Even if Pakistan does refrain from carrying out a retaliatory (and highly popular) test, it will no doubt take the necessary measures to counter the Indian strategic advantage.

The "balance of terror" is now a fact of life in South Asia. Reactions range from the apocalyptic to the apocalyptic. To minimize the danger, however, the focus should be on taking practical measures, such as a non-first-use agreement between the two countries and improved control and command systems in both.

Also, both should be invited to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as nuclear weapon powers. This might suggest to some extent India's desire for international recognition and allay the fear that Pakistan might transfer nuclear technology to Israel's enemies.

IQBAL AKHUND,
St.-Jean-de-Cuculles, France

The writer was national security adviser in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet from 1988 to 1990.

Year 2000 Bug

Regarding "Year 2000 Computer Bug: US Predicts Hasty Price" (April 30):

The millennium bug is a real

problem, particularly in systems affecting both health and safety, but readers should be wary of inflated estimates of the cost of fixing it from people like Federal Reserve governors who lack technical knowledge or those like software consultants and managers who have much to gain if the problem is imagined to be worse than it is.

Bugs are found in computer programs all the time. Somehow we avoid disaster.

ANTHONY RALSTON,
London

The Voice, the Chairman of the Board, Of 'Blue Eyes,' the leader of the frat pack, the swinger in chief — he's the culprit. It's all Frankie's fault.

American popular culture — which is more and more the only culture America has, which is more and more the only culture everyone else in the world has (we live, as Al Gore keeps chirping and horrifyingly reminding us, in a global village) — may be divided into two absolutely distinct ages: Before Frank and After Frank.

Sinatra, as every obituary observed, was the first true modern pop idol, inspiring in the 1940s the sort of mass adulation that was to become a familiar phenomenon in the '50s and '60s. One man, swolling onto the set at precisely the right moment in the youth of the Entertainment Age, made himself the prototype of the age's essential figure: the iconic celebrity.

The iconic celebrity is the result of the central confusion of the age, which is that people possessed of creative or artistic gifts are somehow teachers — role models — in matters of personal conduct. The iconic celebrity is idolized, and obsessively studied and massively imitated, not merely for the creation of art but for the creation of public life, for the confection of affect and biography that the artist projects onto the national screen.

And what Frank Sinatra projected was: cool. And here is

where the damage was done. Frank invented cool, and everyone followed Frank, and everything has been going to hell ever since.

In America, B.F., there was no cool. There was smart (as in the smart set), urbane, sophisticated, fast and hip; but these things were not the same as cool. The pre-Frank hip guy, the model of aesthetic and moral superiority to which men aspired, is the American male of the 1930s and '40s. He is Humphrey Bogart in "The Big Sleep" or "Casablanca" or Archie Goodwin in Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe novels. He possesses an outward cynicism, but this is understood to be merely clothing; at his core, he is a square.

It rights a lot, generally on the side of the underdog. He is willing to die for his beliefs, and he is, although he takes pains to hide it, old-fashioned. He believes in truth, justice, the American way and love. He is on the side of the law, except when the law is crooked. He is not taken in by jingoism but he is himself a patriot; when there is a war he goes to it. He is, after his fashion, a gentleman and, in a quite modern manner, a sexual egalitarian.

He is forthright, contemptuous of dishonesty in all its forms, from posing to lying. He confronts his enemies openly and fairly, even if he might lose. He is honorable and virtuous, although he is properly suspicious of men who talk about honor and virtue. He may be world-weary, but he is not ironic.

The new cool man that Sinatra defined was a very different creature. Cool said the old values were for suckers. Cool was looking out for No. 1 always. Cool didn't get mad; it got even. Cool didn't go to war; save went to war, and, anyway, cool had no beliefs it was willing to die for. Cool never, ever, got in a fight it might lose; cool had friends who could take care of that sort of thing. Cool was a cad and boastful about it; in cool's philosophy, the lady was always a tramp and was to be treated accordingly.

Cool was not on the side of the law; cool made its own laws. Cool was not knowing but still essentially idealistic; cool was nihilistic. Cool was not virtuous; it reveled in vice. Before cool, being good was still hip; after cool, only being bad was.

Quite a legacy. On the other hand, he sure could sing.

Washington Post Writers Group

America's Moral Slide? Blame Ol' Blue Eyes

By Michael Kelly

WASHINGTON — Do not blame it on the bossa nova. Nor on rock and roll nor soul nor jazz nor rhythm and blues.

It wasn't Elvis or the Beatles or the Rolling Stones. It wasn't Washington or Hollywood or the Upper West Side. It wasn't Ted Kennedy and it wasn't Richard Nixon. It wasn't the Years of Rage

MEANWHILE

or the Me Decade or the Decade of Greed. It wasn't the commies or the beats, or the hippies or the yippies, or the Panthers or the druggies, or the yuppies or the buppies, or the NIMBYs or the DNKs or even the ACLU.

No, if you want to finger one person, place or thing for what went wrong with America, you need look no further than that accidental one-man validation of the great-man theory of history, Francis Albert Sinatra, 1915-1998. Yes — The Voice, the Chairman of the Board, Of 'Blue Eyes,' the leader of the frat pack, the swinger in chief — he's the culprit. It's all Frankie's fault.

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INTERNATIONAL

Israeli Supreme Court To Rule on Torture

Ban on Security Forces' Practices Is Sought By Palestinians and Human Rights Groups

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — In an unprecedented challenge to the security forces, the Israeli Supreme Court opened hearings Wednesday in a case contesting the use of violent interrogation methods that human rights groups and Palestinian detainees say are tantamount to torture.

The appeal, which was brought by four former prisoners and two human rights organizations, asked Israel's highest judicial authority to ban all forms of physical abuse that may violate conventions on torture that Israel and many other democratic governments have signed.

The Israeli government insists that employing "modest physical pressure" to extract information from hundreds of Palestinian detainees held without charges has been invaluable in uncovering terrorist plots and preventing the loss of civilian lives.

A deposition filed by Ami Ayalon, head of the nation's General Security Service, contended that dozens of planned bombings and kidnappings by Palestinian terror cells had been thwarted in the last year because of names, details or confessions gleaned from prisoners through "special and unusual methods" by Israeli interrogators.

According to testimony by several Palestinian detainees, those methods include wearing hoods soaked in vomit or urine and being shaken violently, bound and gagged in painful positions, deprived of sleep and subjected to blasts of cold air and loud music.

The landmark case is being closely watched to see what kind of legal limits the judicial system may decide to impose on the country's security forces.

While some temporary injunctions have been issued in the past, the Israeli court has never before been asked to issue a blanket ruling on the legality of using force against detainees.

The nine justices on the panel made it clear that they were dismayed about being asked to rule on a key legal precedent in the absence of any legislative guidelines for police interrogations.

"Why should the Supreme Court pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the Parliament?" complained Chief

Justice Aharon Barak. But the court consented to take the case and promised to reach a decision as quickly as possible.

In 1987, a government commission headed by a retired chief justice, Moshe Landau, advised that "moderate physical pressure" could be used against suspects in special circumstances to save lives.

Human rights advocates say the finding has been exploited to justify state-sanctioned torture on a regular basis.

The Israeli human rights group Betselem published a report this week concluding that 85 percent of the 1,000 to 1,500 Palestinians detained for interrogation last year were subjected to practices that fit the legal definition of torture — even though many were released without any criminal charges being filed.

Betselem's director, Ynval Ginbar, said such brutality only foments more hatred against Israel and perpetuates the violence that has plagued the quest for an enduring peace settlement.

"The security services are unaware of the negative repercussions of hundreds of Palestinians going back to their societies with very bitter and very angry feelings," Mr. Ginbar said. "Many democracies fighting against terrorism use interrogation techniques that are clever and intelligent and have proved no less effective than brutal methods."

Dan Yakir, a human rights lawyer, urged the court to ban security forces from violently shaking their suspects, which he called "an ignoble means."

Mr. Yakir is defending a claim brought by the family of Abed Tsamer, Harizat, who was grabbed and shaken so forcefully during his detention in April 1995 that he died within days of his arrest.

But the Israeli state attorney, Shai Nitzan, argued that the terrorist threat has become so pervasive that interrogators should be entitled to use physical force whenever they are convinced that doing so could prevent future bombings or kidnappings.

"In today's security situation," Mr. Nitzan said, "the employment of 'torture' is vital. Its use cannot be forgone without having a seriously debilitating effect on the capabilities of security forces to thwart severe terror attacks."



A British soldier on patrol talking to a young child Wednesday in Beechmount, a Roman Catholic area of Belfast.

INDONESIA: Gleeful Students Insist That Suharto Must Go

Continued from Page 1

It's a victory, because their No. 1 goal is to get Suharto to stand down."

Elsewhere around Jakarta, a show of military might thwarted opposition politicians' plans for a huge street march that would have taken up to a million people within sight of the presidential palace. Tanks were moved out overnight, and barbed-wire barricades blocked off all the major streets in the center of the city. Amien Rais, a Muslim leader and the march organizer, said he had canceled the protest because he feared "another Tiananmen Square," a reference to the massacre of students in Beijing in June 1989.

Rallies were also held in cities across the archipelago, the largest in Yogyakarta where as many as a half-million people held a huge anti-government demonstration described as peaceful.

With the march in Jakarta canceled, and the heavy troop presence keeping most people off the streets, the students instead took over Parliament — the legislative chamber, an adjacent nine-story office building, and the manicured outdoor grounds, with palm trees, a pool and fountain, and a modernistic sculpture. In contrast to the tension outside, the mood on the Parliament grounds was festive. But the joyful, sometimes playful mood masked a serious goal — the overthrow of Mr. Suharto's 32-year-old regime.

The banners hung from the office building showed the uncompromising nature of their demand, "Suharto Step Down!" said one. "End the Suharto Dynasty," read another. And yet another said, "Suharto, the Whole World Wants You to Go Now!"

"We're witnessing history," said a veteran Indonesian journalist, Fikri Jrifri, who seemed awed as he surveyed the scene.

SUHARTO: Albright Urges Indonesian to Preserve His Legacy'

Continued from Page 1

drag Pakistan's world standing down."

By deciding not to test, Mrs. Albright said, Pakistani leaders would "pull South Asia back from an arms competition that nations there cannot afford and might not survive."

Signs of bipartisan congressional support emerged Sunday for efforts to reward Pakistan for restraint. The chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, Richard Shelby, Republican of Alabama, and the deputy chairman, Robert Kerrey, Democrat of Nebraska, said they would support sending Islamabad 28 F-16 fighters for which it had already paid more than \$600,000. Delivery of the jets was suspended amid U.S. concerns about the Pakistani nuclear program.

Mr. Suharto, Mrs. Albright said, can "preserve his legacy as a man who not only led his country but provided for its democratic transition."

The secretary of state also urged the Indonesian to exercise restraint in dealing with demonstrators.

While Mrs. Albright's comments on Indonesia seemed aimed at helping the country pass through a harrowing crisis as quickly as possible, their effect — and the largeness of American diplomacy

He added, "It's become people power!"

The students are well-organized. Mothers and housewives responded to a radio appeal and brought food and water and passed it over the fence. The students set up their own identity check at the front gate, allowing only students and journalists to pass through to their "liberated zone," fearing that outside agitators — like members of the thuggish pro-Suharto youth militia, the Pemuda Pancasila — might try to infiltrate the grounds.

The students were clear that, while they appreciated sympathy from outsiders, they wanted to keep their protest confined behind the gates of Parliament. Talking to the streets, many said, might risk inciting the crowds outside to violence and another spasm of looting such as the one that occurred last week.

"When people join the students, then there will be riots," one business-school student said.

Most of the students wore blazers of their school colors — bright orange and reds and blues and greens — creating a brilliant patchwork that spread out across the grounds.

The students complete with first aid kits and media guides, organized themselves into shifts, so some students could stay overnight to hold the grounds of their new campus while others returned home to sleep. And while they lack a single leader or group of leaders, there seems to be little rivalry or jockeying for the spotlight. Many students were even reluctant to give their school name, saying they want to speak for all students, not just their own university.

Mr. Suharto has offered to step aside, but only after new elections are held and a new Parliament is able to name his replacement. In the meantime, he said, will begin instituting reforms through a new cabinet and a "reform council" to be named Thursday. Some analysts believe

that the students, and their sympathizers, seemed divided on another issue: if Mr. Suharto resigns, should his vice president and longtime ally, B. J. Habibie, be also forced to resign? Some say yes, that Mr. Habibie is simply a Suharto crony and that all vestiges of Mr. Suharto's rule must be swept away. But others disagree, saying Mr. Habibie could stay on and serve in a caretaker's role for the remainder of Mr. Suharto's five-year term.

"It's a personal opinion," said Nanang, 24, a Yarsi University student.

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ULSTER:

New Peace, Old Problems

Continued from Page 1

"Fall short, we see the dreamer again,"

Fermanagh and Tyrone emergency again."

In the spring, the patches of yellow flowers sprout yellow-green leaves, forest and bog, green grass, have seen as symbols this year, change facing Northern Ireland, clumps are welcome for birds, same soil, but boughs to be built with their thorny leaves.

Built as a headstone for a "fort" — Dungannon divided Catholics and Protestants and local government to have ever since between the two communities.

Under an arrangement followed leadership of the city council by 1995, Catholics and Protestants,

Though their streets and buildings bear the tribal grafts and neighborhood walls around the town, Dungannon still live largely separate.

Catholics drink in MacCormac's, Portadown Road, Protestant today's on Church Street.

The security barriers that mark entrance roads to the town and history of sectarian bombings killings that in the 1970s caused by Dungannon the name "Murder Capital."

The gathering in the gymnasium from the mutually suspicious and Protestant communities — occurrence to a call by Sir Leon Brittan, EU trade commissioner, to begin a new and formal round of across-the-board talks.

On China, Ms. Barshefsky said Beijin had not yet made a political decision to open its markets enough to qualify for membership in the WTO and as a result its progress on trade liberalization had been "slow and uneven."

WTO members agreed to keep electronic commerce on the Internet duty-free until a new meeting to decide on further trade liberalization is held in the United States at the end of next year.

The three-day meeting in Geneva, which marked the 50th anniversary of the postwar global trading system, issued a final communiqué that supported the idea of further trade liberalization.

Yet against the backdrop of general harmony, Europe's agricultural subsidies came under heavy fire at the Geneva meeting.

Ms. Barshefsky met Wednesday with the other members of the "Cairns Group" of nations that do not subsidize agriculture and which are seeking to pressure the EU to liberalize the sector during a new round of trade talks that will begin at the end of 1999. The group includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Uruguay.

"The Cairns Group and the United States agreed we would work closely to open up agricultural markets, and a number of Cairns group countries spoke explicitly about Europe," Ms. Barshefsky said Wednesday.

"There was a strong attack on the protectionism that still exists in European agricultural markets," said Renato Ruggiero, director-general of the WTO.

"The Europeans have not answered the attack, and that means that agriculture is perhaps the most controversial issue on the agenda for the near future."

Mr. Leon suggested that agriculture, together with other outstanding trade issues such as industrial tariffs, services and government procurement, might form part of a so-called "Millennium Round." In response, Ms. Barshefsky said that President Bill Clinton had stressed that the United States would keep an open mind on the nature of future trade talks, but, "it made equally clear that in today's economy we cannot take ten years to talk, as in the Tokyo Round or seven years as in the Uruguay Round."

Ms. Barshefsky said she was pleased that WTO members had agreed to begin considering future trade talks at a meeting in September and also that talks on liberalizing the \$60 billion-a-year agriculture market would proceed regardless of any other issues.

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Asked to comment on a call Wednesday from President Boris Yeltsin that Russia be admitted to the WTO this year, Ms. Barshefsky said, "Russia has a very, very long way to go."

WTG Vows To Tackle Farm Issues

U.S. Pushes for Opening Of European Markets

By Alan Friedman

International Herald Tribune

ROME — The United States and 15 other nations began a push Wednesday for what seems likely to become the next big issue in global trade: a drive to force the European Union to open up its heavily protected agriculture markets.

"There appears to be a general consensus that European farm policies act to keep far prices high in Europe to the detriment of European consumers and to the detriment of the productivity and efficiency of agriculture itself," said Charlene Barshefsky, the U.S. trade representative.

Amid other developments Wednesday, the losing day of a meeting of 131 members of the World Trade Organization in Geneva:

• Ms. Barshefsky offered a lukewarm response to a call by Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commissioner, to begin a new and formal round of across-the-board trade talks.

• On China, Ms. Barshefsky said Beijin had not yet made a political decision to open its markets enough to qualify for membership in the WTO and as a result its progress on trade liberalization had been "slow and uneven."

• WTO members agreed to keep electronic commerce on the Internet duty-free until a new meeting to decide on further trade liberalization is held in the United States at the end of next year.

The three-day meeting in Geneva, which marked the 50th anniversary of the postwar global trading system, issued a final communiqué that supported the idea of further trade liberalization.

Yet against the backdrop of general harmony, Europe's agricultural subsidies came under heavy fire at the Geneva meeting.

Ms. Barshefsky met Wednesday with the other members of the "Cairns Group" of nations that do not subsidize agriculture and which are seeking to pressure the EU to liberalize the sector during a new round of trade talks that will begin at the end of 1999. The group includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Uruguay.

"The Cairns Group and the United States agreed we would work closely to open up agricultural markets, and a number of Cairns group countries spoke explicitly about Europe," Ms. Barshefsky said Wednesday.

"There was a strong attack on the protectionism that still exists in European agricultural markets," said Renato Ruggiero, director-general of the WTO.

"The Europeans have not answered the attack, and that means that agriculture is perhaps the most controversial issue on the agenda for the near future."

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Board Chairman Hilmar Kopper, left, and Chief Executive Rolf Breuer at Deutsche Bank annual meeting.

Deutsche Fears 'Worst' in Indonesia

German Bank May Set Aside More Reserves and Warns of Further Crises

Compiled by Our Staff Dispatchers

FRANKFURT — Deutsche Bank AG, Germany's largest bank, said Wednesday that the Asian financial crisis was the biggest risk facing the world economy and that the troubles there were far from over.

Rolf Breuer, the bank's chief executive, said his company was "prepared for the worst" in Indonesia and said it may set aside more money this year to cover its losses there.

The bank set aside 1 billion Deutsche marks (\$617 million) in 1997 to cover losses in Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea and Malaysia, countries that weathered severe currency devaluations last year. At the time, Deutsche Bank said the sum was enough to cover all anticipated losses in the region.

But on Wednesday, Mr. Breuer told shareholders that while the money set aside for Thailand, South Korea and Malaysia was "probably enough," this was not the case with Indonesia.

"Now, after half a year, we cannot sound the all-clear, and we are ex-

tremely worried," Mr. Breuer said.

Deutsche Bank said Tuesday that meetings with Indonesia and creditor banks scheduled for next week in Frankfurt had been delayed by a week.

Indonesian companies and banks owe \$80.2 billion in foreign-currency debt in banks around the world, according to Indonesia's central bank.

Many analysts expect the lenders will ultimately be forced to write off a large part of that debt, perhaps as much as \$36 billion. Deutsche Bank is leading the talks along with Chase Manhattan Corp. and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

Deutsche Bank last week closed its operations in Indonesia and evacuated its staff to Singapore. The bank said it may reopen its two branches in Indonesia on Friday if conditions permit.

"We still believe in Asia overall, but we don't believe the tiger economies will be able to return to their former economic growth rates in the next two or three years," Mr. Breuer told shareholders at the bank's annual meeting.

Mr. Breuer said the U.S. economy

was proving to be "surprisingly resistant" to the Asian crisis. He predicted that U.S. interest rates would rise in the second half of 1998 in view of growing wage pressures and stabilizing commodity prices.

Separately, Deutsche Bank said it had made no progress in its plan to acquire a French financial institution and reiterated that Deutsche was so large that it did not need to merge with another bank. It said financial mergers under way in the United States and Japan stemmed from motives that did not apply in Germany.

Mr. Breuer said Deutsche Bank's aim to fill a "blank spot" in Europe by establishing a strong foothold in France had run into difficulty because of French reluctance to sell off what officials viewed as the country's "crown jewels."

He said national pride had made French officials reluctant to allow a foreign bank to buy a French one without a commensurate French acquisition too abroad. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

GM Hopes to Recharge Adam Opel

By John Schmid

International Herald Tribune



David Herman will run Opel in Russia.

FRANKFURT — Gary Cowger is about to receive an all-expenses-paid immersion course in the German language, courtesy of General Motors Corp.

He'll need it.

GM announced Wednesday that it had chosen Mr. Cowger to lead its main European operations as chairman of Adam Opel AG, assigning to the relatively unknown executive the task of cutting jobs and costs, restoring competitiveness and changing spearhead GM's ambitious global expansion.

Mr. Cowger, 51, will succeed David Herman, 52, who has headed German-based Opel since 1992.

Mr. Herman has asked to be moved to Moscow, GM says. There he will manage the company's comparatively tiny hot growing operations in the former Soviet Union.

By jumping to the head of Opel, Mr. Cowger will instantly assume one of the leading roles in European industry.

Mr. Cowger will arrive as Opel's chairman at a pivotal time for Europe's third-largest carmaker. He will preside over Opel's plants in Germany, Poland,

Hungary and the Netherlands and must complete a treacherous restructuring when Opel has struggled with stagnant profits and quality problems. In January, Mr. Herman struck a five-year job-cutting agreement with Opel's unions to reduce 4,000 jobs in its four German auto works, eliminating nearly 10 percent of the staff.

The new assignment at Opel's headquarters in Rüsselsheim, just outside Frankfurt, amounts to Mr. Cowger's most high-profile position after 33 years with GM. From 1994 to the end of 1997, Mr. Cowger was president of GM's Mexican operations, helping make GM the leader in the Mexican market. At the start of 1998, he moved to Zurich to oversee production at GM's European plants.

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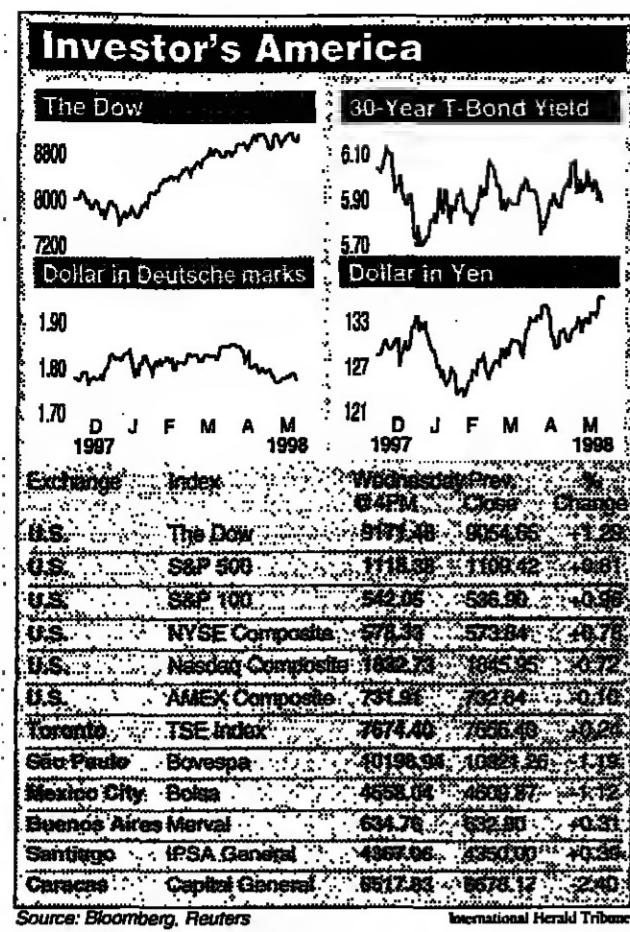
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THE AMERICAS



Blue-Chips Advance, But Dell Slows Techs

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stock prices finished mixed Wednesday, with blue-chip issues rising on hopes that low interest rates will drive demand for equities while technology shares fell amid disappointment with Dell Computer's earnings.

"You've got interest rates doing one thing and profits another, so there's a balancing act going on in the market right now," said Benedict

"Even though Dell's numbers exceeded analysts' expectations, they didn't exceed the whisper numbers," said Peter Coolidge, senior equity trader at Brean Murray & Co.

"Whisper numbers" are unofficial forecasts that are usually higher than published market estimates.

Dell also said the average selling price for its machines had fallen more than analysts had expected. Computer makers' profit margins have been battered by price wars this year.

Compaq Computer fell 1% to 29.14, IBM fell 2 to 123, and Gateway lost 3 to 46%.

"Investors are nervous about the technology sector," said John Maack, a money manager at Crabb Huson Group Inc. "If you're a holder of tech stocks, you know you have exposure to potentially negative developments, but you're not just sure what they are at any moment or from what direction they'll come."

But higher Treasury bond prices shored up the blue-chips. The price of the benchmark 30-year bond rose 14/32 point to 103 3/32, sending the yield down to 5.90 percent from 5.93 percent Tuesday.

The bond market was shored up by government data showing an increase in the U.S. trade deficit.

"This looks good," Jim Cusser, an asset manager at Waddell & Reed Inc., said of the trade data. "Imports are coming in at very cheap levels, keeping a cap on inflation."

Low borrowing costs are good for stocks because they make it easier for companies to expand their businesses while lessening the attraction of fixed-income securities such as bonds.

Analog Devices fell 6 to 27/4 after the chipmaker reported disappointing profit for its second quarter and warned it would post similar results for the current quarter. Analog blamed an uncertain near-term outlook for the semiconductor market.

PepsiCo rose 2 9/16 to 40 1/4 after an analyst at Goldman, Sachs & Co. recommended the stock because of the company's profit outlook.

Neotherapeutics rose 9 11/16 to 16 1/4 on optimism about a treatment for Alzheimer's disease that the biotechnology company has been testing.

ResortQuest International's initial public offering of 5.8 million shares at 11 1/2 was well received; the stock rose to 15 1/4.

Sharper Image rose 1 9/16 to 7 1/16 after the up-market gadget retailer said it would revamp its Internet site to try to reach younger customers as well as international markets.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

AT&T to Bells: Sell Ours, Too

The Associated Press

SECAUCUS, New Jersey — AT&T Corp., borrowing a tactic from its rivals, said Wednesday that it had told the five regional Baby Bell phone companies it wants them to sell AT&T's long-distance service.

Last week, AT&T, MCI Communications Corp. and other long-distance phone companies sued two of the Baby Bells to stop them from carrying the long-distance service of a rival, Qwest Communications International Inc.

AT&T's chairman, C. Michael Armstrong, wrote late Tuesday to the five regional Bell companies and GTE Corp. requesting that AT&T be allowed to enter into the same arrangement with them as Qwest. "We also would like to provide our customers the convenience of one-stop shopping should those arrangements be found lawful," he wrote.

Sharper Image rose 1 9/16 to 7 1/16 after the up-market gadget retailer said it would revamp its Internet site to try to reach younger customers as well as international markets.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

Very briefly:

• MetroNet Communications Corp. of Calgary, Alberta, plans to buy the local phone service of Rogers Communications Inc., a cable-TV and phone company, for 1 billion Canadian dollars (\$660 million) in cash and stock.

• Mexico's economy grew at an annual rate of 6.6 percent in the first quarter as manufacturing output rose at a rate of 10.8 percent. Farm output dropped 6 percent because of drought.

• Bank of New York Co. withdrew its unsolicited \$22.3 billion takeover offer for Mellon Bank Corp., after Mellon refused to discuss the bid.

• Toys 'R' Us Inc.'s first-quarter profit fell 35 percent to \$19.2 million as it faced competition from discount stores such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Sales rose 5 percent, to \$2 billion.

• Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said the Asian economic slowdown was a "slight" drag on the U.S. economy as a slowdown in U.S. exports was offset by the moderating effects the crisis has had on inflation.

• Northern Telecom Ltd. won a five-year contract to deliver leading-edge network equipment to SBC Communications Inc. in a deal expected to be worth more than \$1.5 billion.

• McDonald's Corp. workers in Ohio say they will begin to form a union on June 1 unless the company addresses their concerns.

AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Soros Buys Stake in Caracas Bank

Bloomberg News

CARACAS — The financier George Soros has expanded his holdings in Venezuela, home of the world's fourth-worst performing stock market this year, buying a 5 percent stake in Banco Caracas CA, his partners said Wednesday.

Mr. Soros bought the shares in the 11th-largest Venezuelan bank this month, even as surging interest rates and political uncertainty have pounded stocks in the country. The benchmark index has plummeted 27.4 percent this year as oil prices fell to nine-year lows. The top Venezuelan export is oil.

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Stocks

Sales

High

Low

Lates

Chgs.

Per

Close

Chgs.

Per

ew Moscow

is stopped by a little dash, because it's over the river, Russia today is a major player in energy, oil and telecommunications. It is a member of the World Bank and has suffered no loss of influence among out-of-government companies.

But the Russians are not the only ones in a country that is being reorganized. Life expectancy in Russia continues to fall, today's population of 147 million is projected to drop to 133 million by 2050, no corrective action is taken to combat the nation's alarming aging.

Russia has operated on welfare for most of the past decade, now returning, climbing back to its former level. It is still difficult to find a remunerative journalistic career, a story with a still unforseeable outcome, as well as a new story.

British Telecom's sales rose to £15.6 billion for the year from £14.9 billion the previous year. Quarterly revenue rose to £3.95 billion from £3.81 billion.

Reuters

LONDON — Rover Group, a unit of BMW AG of Germany, said Wednesday it would invest \$400 million (\$649 million) to build a new executive car to replace the Rover 600 and 800 series models, creating 6,000 jobs.

The investment will be plowed into upgrading Rover's plant at Oxford, England, and is expected to create 4,000 jobs within the company and 5,000 at local supplier companies.

The new car, code-named the R40, is scheduled to make its international debut at the British International Motor Show in Birmingham in October.

It will be the first Rover car to be fully engineered under BMW's ownership. But analysis

expect the R40 to come in slightly below the BMW 3-Series level, and it is not expected to bite into its parent company's sales.

"This new vehicle is a key element of the BMW Group product strategy and will make a significant contribution to the continued success of the company," Rover's chairman and chief executive, Walter Hasselkus, said.

Mr. Hasselkus added that the R40 investment was part of Rover's rolling £600 million annual investment program, which was launched in 1996.

The decision to build a new luxury/executive model comes as BMW is lagging in the race to buy Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd., which now looks likely to be sold to Volkswagen AG. But

Rover said the R40 investment had been separated from the Rolls-Royce question and had been under consideration well before the Rolls auction began.

"The decision was made three weeks ago after one-and-a-half years' consideration," a Rover spokesman said.

But some uncertainty remains on what section of the market the new car will end up attracting, analysts said.

"Will it be seen by the market as an executive car which is close to the BMW 3-Series or Mercedes C-Class?" said Arthur Maher, head of research at LMC International. "Or, as is more likely, will it find that its main competitors are the new Passat, 406 or Vectra?"

One-Time Tax Cuts Quarter's Profit at BT

Courtesy Our Staff From Reuters

LONDON — British Telecommunications PLC said Wednesday that fourth-quarter profit fell 6 percent to \$421 million (\$702 million), wrapping up a year of high revenue and a big hit the company took from a so-called "windfall" tax.

British Telecom said its net profit for the year ended March 31 fell nearly 13 percent, to £1.73 billion.

The £10 million the company paid in the windfall tax last year more than wiped out a one-time payment of \$465 million that came when a merger deal with MCI Communications Corp. was broken up by a huge offer from WorldCom Inc.

The temporary windfall tax was imposed on former state-owned monopolies that had been sold off on the stock market by the previous two Conservative governments.

British Telecom's sales rose to £15.6 billion for the year from £14.9 billion the previous year. Quarterly revenue rose to £3.95 billion from £3.81 billion.

(AP, Reuters)



Sergei Chikov/Agence France Presse

MUSING IN MOSCOW — A stock-exchange trader relaxing between transactions. The Russian stock index, which fell 1.45 percent Wednesday, has declined 88.7 percent since Jan. 1.

and Capitalism

But people believe our system can be changed, we change 10 percent of those polled.

France said the change, 13 percent, is down 44 percent compared to the system. One percent were content with the system.

A better in the possible change characterizes the Social Democrats of Greens, who are not

content with the system. They are the only ones who have

the same view.

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(AP, Reuters)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, May 20

Prices in local currencies.

Telefers

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX Index 1194.48

High 50.10 49.40 49.20

Low 49.00 48.20 48.00

Close 49.00 48.20 48.00

Prev. 49.00 48.20 48.00

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Bilbao, Vets. 2630 2630 2640

Advertisement

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

May 20, 1998

For information on how to list your fund, fax Katy Houri at (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or E-mail : funds@iht.com

To receive free daily quotations for your funds by E-mail : subscribe at e-funds@iht.com

NASDAQ

Wednesday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Incorporated Press

NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

WORLD ROUNDUP**Miceli Takes Stage**

CYCLING Nicola Miceli of Italy edged the group by three seconds following a timely downhill attack 2 kilometers from the finish to win the fourth stage of the Tour of Italy on Wednesday.

Sergei Gonchar of Ukraine barely retained the pink jersey, holding onto a one-second lead over Michele Bartoli of Italy. The Ukrainian snatched the leadership from Alex Zulle of Switzerland, the favorite, when Zulle was delayed by a spill in Tuesday's stage.

Miceli, 26, captured his first-ever stage victory in the Giro, breaking away from the pack down the Poggio Fondoni hill — the only tough section of an otherwise flat course in Porto Santo Stefano.

It was the second consecutive victory for the Riso Scotti team. Miceli's teammate, Nicola Minolfi, sprinted to victory in the third stage on Tuesday. (AP)

All NBA Team Is Named

BASKETBALL Michael Jordan of Chicago and Karl Malone of Utah, the NBA's most valuable player and runner up, were unanimous choices for the All-NBA team announced Wednesday.

Joining them on the first team were Tim Duncan of San Antonio at forward, who was the NBA's Rookie of the Year, as well as Shaquille O'Neal of Los Angeles at center and Gary Payton of Seattle at guard. Jordan, a guard, was a unanimous pick for the fifth time and Malone, a forward, for the third time. The voters are sportswriters and broadcasters throughout the United States and Canada.

The second team was made up of Detroit's Grant Hill and Seattle's Vin Baker at forward; San Antonio's David Robinson at center and Miami's Tim Hardaway and Washington's Rod Strickland at guard.

Picked for the third team were Chicago's Scottie Pippen and Charlotte's Glen Rice at forward; Atlanta's Dikembe Mutombo at center and Washington's Mitch Richmond and Indiana's Reggie Miller at guard. (AP)

Hunt for Vikings Dropped

FOOTBALL The suspense is over: The author Tom Clancy dropped his bid on Wednesday to buy the Minnesota Vikings.

In a letter to National Football League's commissioner, Paul Tagliabue, the best-selling novelist withdrew his \$200 million offer to buy the team, leaving the club's future as uncertain as when it first went on the market last summer.

Clancy, the author of such novels as "Clear and Present Danger," and "The Hunt for Red October," said he knew the deal was in trouble after he met with Tagliabue on May 11 and the league's finance committee would not recommend his proposal. In a statement, Clancy said his decision was "painful, but necessary." (AP)

Yankees and Orioles Clash in Base Brawl

Hit Batter After Home Run Sparks Melee

By Buster Olney
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees went from playing a perfect game to participating in the most imperfect of games when an ugly and lengthy brawl with the Baltimore Orioles punctuated a Yankee comeback in the eighth inning, spilling into the visitors' dugout at Yankee Stadium.

The fight certainly will result in suspensions, which will be levied by Gene Budig, the American League president. George Steinbrenner, the Yankees' owner, said angrily, "I haven't seen anything like it in 25 years."

The backdrop in the fight lies in the standings. The Yankees, who won the brawl-marred game on Tuesday night, 9-5, are 29-9 and streaking. The Orioles are perhaps baseball's most disappointing team, losers of six straight games, an aging group apparently past their prime.

Baltimore took a 5-4 lead into the eighth inning, but the Yankees' Bernie Williams slammed a three-run homer with two out against Armando Benitez, Baltimore's hulking, hard-throwing reliever, to give the Yankees a 7-5 lead.

With his next pitch, Benitez, whose fastball is consistently clocked about 100 miles (160 kilometers) an hour drilled Tino Martinez in the upper back, and Martinez bent over in pain.

To the Yankees, and to Drew Coble, the home-plate umpire, the pitch was thrown with malice intended. Coble ejected Benitez with a wave of his arm. "I felt like he would throw at him," Coble said. "I didn't think he'd throw at his head, like he did."

Said Brian Cashman, the Yankees' general manager: "It was the most gütsting thing I've seen in my life."

Said Derek Jeter: "The dumbest thing I've ever seen."

Even Lenny Webster, a Baltimore catcher, said: "If anybody's to blame, Armando's the guy."

There was history of bad blood between Benitez and Martinez: Benitez hit Martinez in June 1995, when Martinez was with Seattle, after allowing a grand slam to one of Martinez's Mariner teammates. That incited a bench-clearing shoving match. The Orioles were so disgusted with Benitez's reaction that they demoted him to the minors.

After drilling Martinez on Tuesday night, Benitez stepped toward home plate. Martinez stood at the plate, glaring at Benitez, and players slowly emerged from both dugouts. Darryl Strawberry, the Yankees' 6-foot-6-inch (2-meter) slugger, came out pointing at Benitez, who dropped his glove and faced the home dugout, beckoning the enemy team.

The Baltimore players met the Yankees, en masse, near the mound, some pushing, some shoving. But several Yankees said afterward that it was apparent somebody would try to reach Benitez.

The Yankees' relievers charged in from their bullpen in left-center field, led by Graeme Lloyd, who ran directly at Benitez and began swinging, and the free-for-all ensued. Lloyd, usually mild mannered, said later that he had never

been so furious about anything in all his years in baseball.

Benitez retreated to the mouth of the Orioles' dugout, where other Yankees started rushing him, including third baseman Scott Brosius.

Mike Stanton, the Yankees' reliever, began wrestling with the Orioles' Chris Hoiles near the stands. Other players were trying to hold back Martinez from Benitez. "It was like fires were breaking out all over," said Joe Torre, the Yankees' manager.

The Yankees' reliever Jeff Nelson then broke away from Baltimore's Norm Charlton and began swinging at Benitez — and, finally, Strawberry attacked Benitez, hitting him in the face with one hard, overhand swing. Alan Mills, a Baltimore pitcher, jumped on top of Strawberry and with Martinez still struggling to reach Benitez, the fight exploded in the Orioles' dugout, players piling on, hands grabbing, fists flying, nobody sure who was trying to stop the fight and who was trying to continue it.

It was frightening confusion; veterans said later it was among the nastiest fights they had witnessed. The crowd of 31,311 roared, and the whole thing lasted perhaps 10 minutes. "It was pretty scary," Williams said. "You never knew who was going to sucker-punch you."

Paul O'Neill pulled Martinez away from the fight; Martinez was holding up two fingers. This was the second time he hit me, he said, his eyes blazing. Dale Stearns, the Yankees' utility infielder, said some Orioles around him began apologizing for Benitez's action.

When players finally began to calm, Torre led Strawberry away and slowly, the Yankees returned to their dugout. Martinez and Nelson and others looking back over their shoulders. Coble and the other umpires conferred, then told the managers they had ejected Benitez, who almost certainly faces a lengthy suspension, based on Coble's belief that his pitch was thrown intentionally; Lloyd, who Coble said bumped him, Strawberry, Nelson and Mills.

Bobby Munoz replaced Benitez, and Tim Raines slammed a two-run homer, the coup de grace. The crowd exploded again and players spilled out of the Yankees' dugout to congratulate him. It was, Torre said later, the best way to respond, though Torre obviously was satisfied his players stood up for each other in the fight. "It was a reaction," he said, "that doesn't surprise me and doesn't displease me."

Following the game, Steinbrenner rode an elevator down to the basement, incensed. "That pitcher," he said, referring to Benitez, "that guy, he should be suspended the rest of the year. That was a classless act, he's got no class."

Steinbrenner then spoke to the players, saying he was proud of them, then met the news media in the hallway outside the Yankees' locker, his face intense. "If you can't win ball games," he said, referring to the Orioles, "I guess you try to win fights. You know how close he came to hitting him in the head? The bruise on his back is this big, and we're taking pictures."

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Bas-relief
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6 Big name in
plastic
10 Lean
14 Sea shades
15 Minds I's?
16 Home health
worker
17 Chewy olios?
20 Carry on
21 English estate
owner, maybe
22 Weasel in brown
23 Olin and Home
25 Tommy who
sing "Dizzy."
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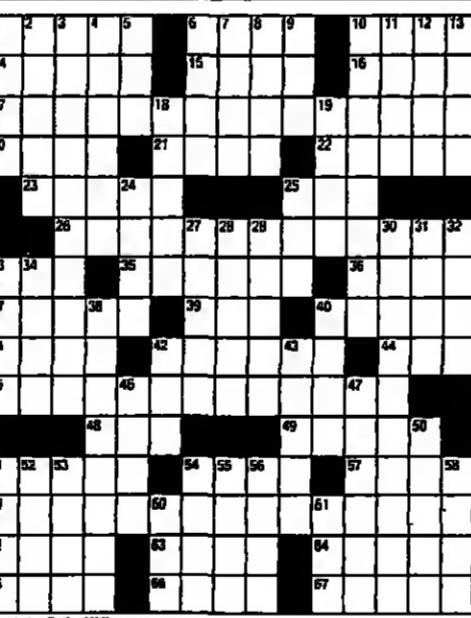
Solution to Puzzle of May 20

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1 Tén of "Dumb & Dumber"
2 Full partner
3 Overthrowing
4 Belgian airline
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8 Popular music
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for the deaf. Abbv
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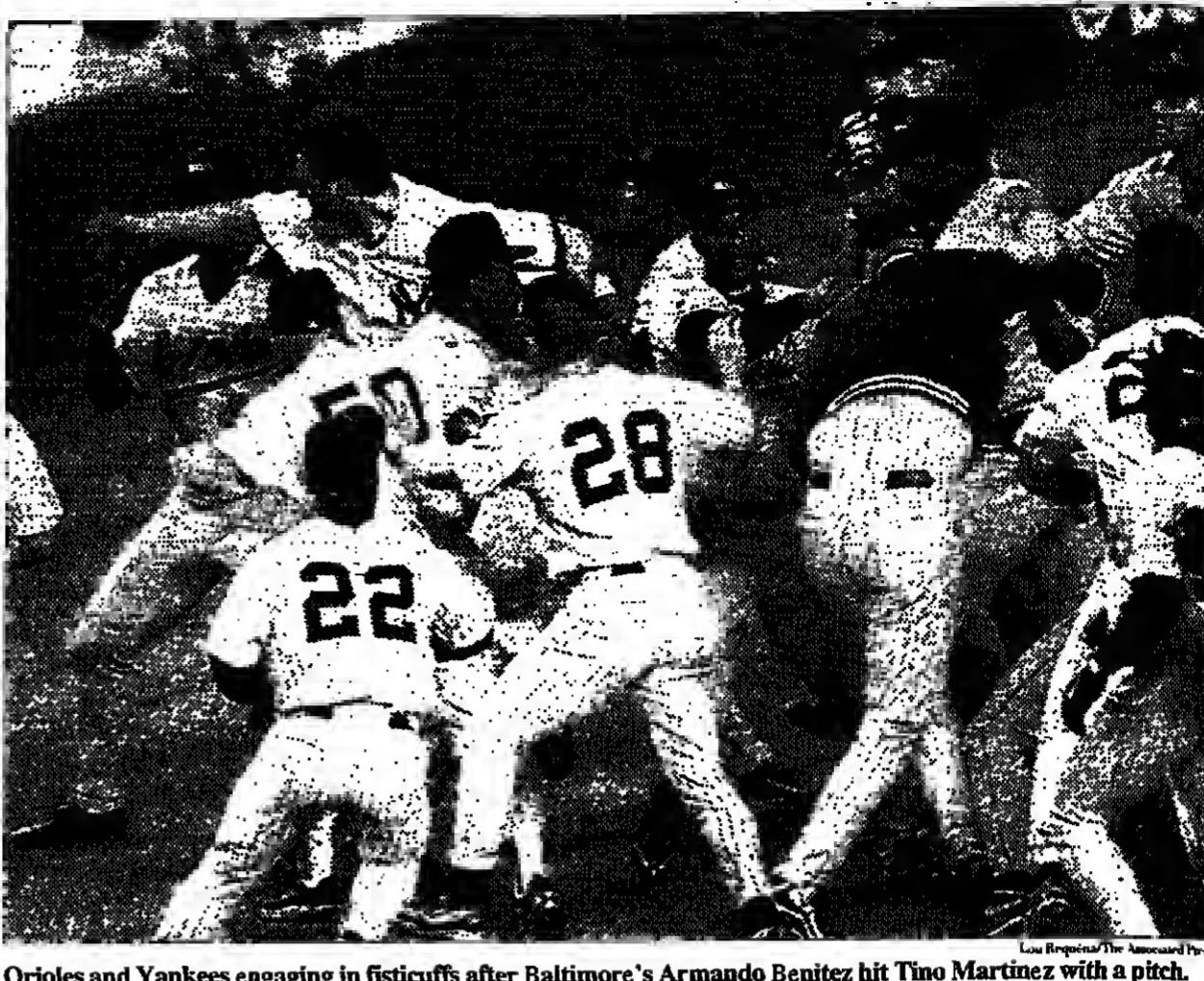
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every Saturday in the IHT.



Orioles and Yankees engaging in fistfights after Baltimore's Armando Benitez hit Tino Martinez with a pitch.

McGwire's 3 Homers Stop Phillies

The Associated Press

Mark McGwire's second three-homer game of the season powered the St. Louis Cardinals to a 10-8 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

McGwire, who leads the majors with 20 homers and 52 RBIs, hit three two-run shots, the last one a 451-footer into the upper deck at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia that snapped an 8-8 tie in the eighth on Tuesday night. The six RBIs tied a career high for McGwire, who has hit five homers in his last four games.

McGwire, who had three homers April 14 against Arizona, became the 12th player to have two three-homer games in a season. It was the fourth time in McGwire's career he has hit three homers in a game and the 45th time he has had more than one homer in a game.

John Frascatore (1-2) got the win after allowing no hits in 1 1/3 innings. Juan Acevedo pitched the ninth for his second save.

Pirates 3, Padres 0 In Pittsburgh, Jose Silva shut down streaking San Diego on four hits in eight innings, stopping the Padres' five-game winning streak.

Jermaine Alensworth tripled to drive

in Pittsburgh's first run, then preserved Silva's third consecutive victory by run-

NL ROUNDUP

ning down Steve Finley's long drive to center field to start a double play in the sixth.

Expos 4, Astros 2 Chris Widger drove in three runs, Rondell White homered and doubled and Carlos Perez allowed five hits in 7 1/3 innings for Montreal.

White went 2-for-3 with a walk, and

Widger's three RBIs gave Perez 13-3

all the offense he needed.

Mets 7, Reds 3; Mets 5, Reds 3 In New

York, Brian Bohanon, making just his

third start of the season, allowed three

hits and one run in six innings as New

York took two from Cincinnati.

Bobby Jones allowed four hits in eight innings and Butch Huskey hit a three-run homer for the Mets in the first

game.

Bohanon (1-1), making the start as the Mets played their second of seven doubleheaders this season after several rainouts, also had an RBI single in the second inning of the second game, when the Mets jumped to a 3-0 lead.

Cubs 6, Dodgers 3 In Chicago, Mark Grace drove in three runs and Tyler Houston homered to lead the Cubs to their seventh win in eight games.

Brewers 8, Giants 6 In Milwaukee, Jeremy Burnitz's three-run homer in the ninth inning lifted the Brewers over San Francisco.

With the score tied, 6-6, Fernando Vina opened the ninth with a double off Jim Poole (0-1). Vina went to third on Jeff Cirillo's sacrifice bunt and, after an intentional walk, Burnitz hit an 0-1 pitch over the right-field fence.

SCOREBOARD
BASEBALL

LAST NIGHT

TONIGHT

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

After
U.K. Nurses
Are Freed
Saudi Arabia

Unstoppable Jordan Gives Bulls 2-0 Lead

By Selena Roberts
New York Times Service

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bulls shrugged off the Indiana Pacers' attempt to clean up their act as they took a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals with a 104-98 victory.

The Pacers had promised to get themselves together after committing 26 turnovers in Game 1, and although they produced fewer mistakes in Game 2 on Tuesday night at the United Center, the Bulls were able to ride the 41 points by Michael Jordan. The two teams will play Game 3 in Indiana on Saturday.

Jordan was unstoppable as he pushed the Bulls ahead in the fourth quarter. He was living up to his most valuable player status, while the Pacers were searching for anyone of name to come through.

The Bulls had a nine-point lead early in the fourth quarter. But the Pacers, getting a late push from Reggie Miller and Rick Smits, were able to keep the game from slipping away. Smits scored on a dunk with 2 minutes, 59 seconds left to bring the Pacers to within 96-91. That quieted the crowd until Jordan came up with a fall-away jumper to liven the place up. But then Chris Mullin hit a jumper, and after a turnover by Ron Harper, Jordan hit a 3-pointer with 2:06 left. That cut the Bulls' lead to 98-95.

Jordan simply would not let his team lose. He delivered two fall-away's in front of Miller, one with 59 seconds left to pump the Bulls' lead back up to seven points.

There was an awakening by the Bulls in the third quarter after they had trailed by seven points at the half. They started matching the bulky duo of Dale Davis and Antonio Davis rebound for rebound. With second-chance points and a flurry of defense that continued to squeeze turnovers out of the Pacers, the



Michael Jordan getting off a shot despite being triple-teamed by, from left, Mark Jackson, Dale Davis and Chris Mullin of the Indiana Pacers.

Bulls went on a 17-6 run. They held a 78-74 lead at the end of the third, thanks to 14 points from Jordan in the period.

Still, the Bulls could not be comfortable. The Pacers had weathered their run. Chicago was unable to pull away from Indiana's auxiliary stars, who had managed to keep their team in the game, even though Jordan was trying to nudge the Bulls away from the Pacers with every trip he made to the free throw line,

By the end of the third quarter, he was 13 of 16 from the line and had 31 points.

Scottie Pippen was at the root of the third-quarter surge as the Bulls took a 62-58 lead midway through the period.

As things started to unravel for the Pacers, they needed one of their stars to emerge. But Miller was being irritated and thrown off his path around screens by Harper. And Bill Wennington, of all people, was putting a body on Smits,

Red Wings Reach Western Finals

By Helene Elliott
Los Angeles Times Service

ST. LOUIS, Missouri — Martin Lapointe permitted himself one long, loud scream, a heartfelt expression of relief and joy. Then it was back to the business of showering, dressing and packing.

There was no music in the Detroit Red Wings' locker room Tuesday night, no hugs or back-slapping. Lapointe and his teammates saw no reason to exult after their 6-1 rout of the St. Louis Blues launched them into the Western Conference finals for the fourth consecutive season. To them, it was merely a necessary step toward a second successive Stanley Cup.

"We're a pretty focused team," said Lapointe, whose two goals in the second period put the game beyond the reach of the overmatched Blues. "Right now, there's not much excitement. We haven't accomplished anything yet."

The Red Wings, who will open the conference finals Sunday against the

Dallas Stars at Reunion Arena, accomplished more in these six games than they realized.

In defeating the speedy, defensively sound Blues, they proved they can play a tight game or match anyone's goal for goal. In sweeping all three games at the

NHL PLAYOFFS

Kiel Center, they improved their playoff road record to 5-1, a key consideration because they won't have home-ice advantage against Dallas.

In recording three power-play goals on Tuesday night, they doubled their total for the series, turning a weakness into a strength when needed it. And in goal, their one supposed soft spot, they got a stoog effort from Chris Osgood.

Nineteen Red Wings had at least one point in the series, including Doug Brown's first-period goal in his first game since he separated his shoulder April 18. Darren McCarty gave Detroit the lead at 12:08 of the first period, finishing a set play with face-off man

Kris Draper and beating Fuhr to the glove side.

Brown essentially ended the game with his power-play goal at 14:29, taking a lead pass in the neutral zone from Steve Yzerman — one of Yzerman's three assists — and lifting a shot over Fuhr's left shoulder.

Lapointe made it 3-0 when he converted the rebound of a Nicklas Lidstrom shot during a power play at 5:03 of the second period, and he extended the lead to 4-0 with a 45-foot shot from the left side at 7:56. After goals by Tomas Holmstrom and Yzerman, the only suspense centered on whether Osgood would get a shutout, but Jim Campbell spoiled that with 5:25 to play.

"Tonight they put us in our place, and it's a humbling experience," a Blues center, Craig Conroy said.

The Blues also want to stay intact as a team. Geoff Courtnall, Brett Hull, Al MacInnis and Steve Duschesne can be free agents July 1, and management probably can't — or won't — retain all four.

"I certainly hope to be in a Blues uniform," MacInnis said.

Korda Beats Chang in World Team Cup

The Associated Press

DUSSELDORF — Petr Korda won a two-hour battle with determined Michal Chang on Wednesday, 7-6 (8-6), 6-6-3, to lead the Czech Republic past the United States at the World Team Cup.

The world's second-ranked player, hoping to make another run at Pete Sampras's No. 1 spot at the French Open next week, turned in his second impressive performance at the \$1.9 million event. On Monday, he trounced the world No. 7, Janis Korkmaz, 6-3, 6-4.

Korda's win gave the Czechs an unbeatable 2-0 lead before the doubles against the Americans, who face elimi-

nation from the event after also losing to Australia on Monday.

Chang, the 1989 French Open champion, is trying to get back in shape after a knee injury, having slipped out of the top 10 after a long reign at No. 2.

He turned in some great shots, fighting off a set point with a perfect lob that froze Korda at the net, but also wasted numerous break points against the Czech player.

It was Korda's backhand, his most powerful weapon, which proved to be the difference in the match as he ripped cross-court winners almost every time a ground stroke by Chang landed short.

Slava Dosedel routed Jim Courier, 6-3, 6-1, in the first singles. The Amer-

ican, another former French Open champion, lost for the second time at the event, which has eight nations playing in a round-robin format.

In the second red-group match, Australia and Sweden were knotted at 1-1 before the deciding doubles.

Mark Philippoussis, the Australian who once held the record for the tour's fastest serve, hit four aces in one game despite the clay surface in powering past Janis Bjorkman, Sweden, 6-3, 6-4.

Magnus Norman of Sweden then captured the second singles by sweeping Mark Woodforde, 6-2, 6-3.

The blue group, which plays Thursday, has Germany, defending champion Spain, Slovakia and France.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

NEW YORK

DETROIT

MINNESOTA

CLEVELAND

INDIANA

WEST DIVISION

DETROIT

CHICAGO

MINNESOTA

INDIANA

WESTERN LEAGUE

DETROIT

CHICAGO

INDIANA

MISSOURI

OKLAHOMA CITY

TEXAS

ARIZONA

NEW MEXICO

WYOMING

UTAH

NEVADA

IDAHO

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NEW YORK

DETROIT

MINNESOTA

CLEVELAND

INDIANA

DETROIT

CHICAGO

MINNESOTA

INDIANA

DETROIT

CHICAGO

INDIANA

DETROIT

ART BUCHWALD

Full-Contact Politics

WASHINGTON — Welcome to the "Jerry Springer" show. See women beat each other up as the men they are fighting over sit there with a dumb look on his face. Watch as heavy bouncers break up the brawl and make the participants sit back in their chairs until they go at each other again. It's more honest than wrestling and is now the top-rated daytime show on TV. Although Americans deplore it, they are ad-dicted couch potatoes.



Buchwald

I've watched a few of the shows, though heaven knows I can't stand the violence. The last time I saw it a thought occurred to me — Washington is getting more like "Jerry

Orson Welles Work To Star at Chichester*New York Times Service*

LONDON — A new production of "Chimes at Midnight," conceived and arranged by Orson Welles, will be a highlight of the summer festival season of the Chichester Festival Theater in Britain. Adapted from Shakespeare's "Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2" and "Henry V," the play focuses on the irrepressible Falstaff.

The season opens Wednesday with Eduardo de Filippo's comedy "Saturday, Sunday, Monday," until June 27. David Hare's "Racing Demon" will be next, from July 1 to Aug. 1, followed by "Chimes at Midnight," from Aug. 5 to Sept. 5.

Not only members of Congress, but others could be booked on the show, including Monica Lewinsky and Linda Tripp. It would be a good fight since both of them have a lot of hair, and I'm sure Jerry Springer would let them go at each other awhile before he'd signal his bouncers to move in.

Paula Jones would also be a good candidate — particularly if Springer could talk Hillary Clinton into going on with her.

It would bring this braindead capital to life.

There is no end to the possibilities. Ken Starr could fight it out with President Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett. Newt Gingrich against anybody.

People are sick and tired of their leaders in Washington not resorting to violence.

Jerry Springer has shown us the way.

Seeing people who don't agree kicking each other in the groin is something the country is dying for. With just a slight push from the public, every politician would walk the extra mile.

All you would have to do is seat Dan Burton, the Republican representative who leaked the Hubble tapes, against the Democrat Henry Waxman and they would start tearing out each other's hair (even though Waxman has no hair) until the bouncers came on to separate them.

□

Joan Dupont
International Herald Tribune

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

to show how a child handles adult sexuality — in this case, perverse sexuality. Because children today know about child abuse. There has been so much in the media, even if they are not directly affected."

Since his first film in 1975, "La Meilleure Facon de Marcher," about a teenager's sexual awakening during summer camp and his terrible punishment for being different, Miller has often focused on the isolation of young people. "I'm sensitive to children and want to understand where their fears and phobias come from. I think the way a kid overcomes fear says something about the kind of adult he will become."

Nicolas has plenty to worry about when he arrives at the ski lodge. His father is so anxious to take off — he is a medical supplies salesman and has visits to make and miles to go — that he forgets the boy's bag in the trunk of the car.

Nicolas is left without his ski gear, without pajamas, panicked that he will wet his bed. Although he says he prefers staying awake all night to his nightmares, the boy drops off to a series of hallucinating flashbacks and projections. During

His family moved to the countryside near Tours, where his father worked as a farm hand; after the Liberation, they went to Paris. "We were simple people," Miller said.

the day, he transforms these visions into stories he tells Hodkann, a boy as dark as Nicolas is pale, brimming with manic energy and morbid appetite — not exactly a reliable friend.

"Nicolas can't even confide in his friend," Miller said. "The secret is too horrible, because his unconscious knows what's what, but a boy in that situation can only tell lies." By the end of the film, the director leaves us feeling that Nicolas has gone through the worst, and, faced with the dire truth, may come out on the other side. "I never knew if a boy's fears are worse than a girl's fears," Miller said. "Perhaps they are — boys are always afraid of being too small."

The director, who has a gentle manner, is known for his masterful touch with children. He got superb performances from Clement Van Den Berghe, who plays sensitive Nicolas, and Lokman Nalckakan, the friend who feeds on his suffering.

Born in 1942, Miller feels that his early fascination with childhood trauma has to do with the war.

"Even though I was small, I know it affected my personality," he said. "I had lots of childish fears and anguish; loud noises terrified me. I think it all may have started in my mother's womb. She was so frightened, simply because we were Jewish and had to hide. I always felt my mother's fears passed right into my bloodstream."

His family moved to the countryside near Tours, where his father worked as a farm hand; after the Liberation, they went to Paris. "We were simple people," Miller said.

His vocation, he said, was born in that movie house. "Like Woody Allen in 'Radio Days,' I just dreamed of being part of that world. I became a 'fan de cinema.' He graduated from IDHEC, the prestigious French film school, at the top of his class and worked on Jean-Luc Godard's 'Deux ou Trois Choses Que Je Sais d'Elle.'

"Then, Francois Truffaut was looking for a production manager on 'Baisers Volees,'" Miller said, "and they told me that he wanted somebody who was young and a cinephile. I made 10 movies with Truffaut." He also worked as an assistant to Marcel Carné, Robert Bresson and Jacques Demy.

When he stopped working with Truffaut, he made "La Meilleure Facon de Marcher," which won a Cesar, the French version of the Academy Awards, for best cinematography.

Miller said he didn't think his collaboration with the director of

"Les 400 Coups" had an impact on his own fascination with childhood.

"My father did odd jobs: He was an upholsterer, then he worked in the garment center, but his best job was when he was ticket-taker at the Rex theater, the magnificent movie house where I saw 'Pinocchio' a movie that scared me to death."

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